

Zhao Xinru, a bird lover and participant in Green Earth Volunteer, tells you Page 9 his story.



A musical drama "Negative" is being staged at the mini theatre of the People's Art Theatre. Page 12

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Zhang Jian celebrates his victory.

First Chinese Swims Channel

By Wang Yanyan

Zhang Jian became the first Chinese to swim the English Channel on Sunday, July 29. He completed the journey in 11 hours, 55 minutes.

The temperature and flat calm might be dubbed perfect conditions as Zhang, an image ambassador for Beijing Youth Daily, plunged into the Atlantic.

He took the northeasterly tide, then turned southeast to conserve strength. In the last half of the journey, he slowed down. With clenched teeth, Zhang joined a pantheon of 511 swimmers from 44 countries who have crossed it 819 times, at least up to 1997 when the latest statistics were reported.

As Zhang navigated the icy crossing, his mother Zhuang Yanxia complained of a nervous stomach upset. She said later she did not dare sleep or

French Alert

Crimes against Chinese Increasing

By Wang Yanyan

With crimes against Chinese overseas students and tourists on the rise in France, the China Ministry of Foreign Affairs has warned Chinese to be on their guard and advises the postponement of non-essential visits.

Social stability in France -- especially Paris -is deteriorating, with local gangs colluding in attacks on official Chinese delegations, investigation groups and tourists, the Ministry also says.

Chinese citizens have been robbed or cheated "frequently and severely". The main venues for these attacks are airports, subway stations and shopping malls.

On July 3, the Ministry appealed to Chinese groups and individuals in France to maintain vigilance and take effective measures.

A French Embassy Press Office spokesman told Beijing Today the warning was "surprising".

"Indeed, we have not heard such a criticism from anyone elsewhere. Therefore, the allegations you refer to seem to us excessive."

Boxing Bout Bounced

By Zhao Hongyi/Wang Yanyan

The big Beijing bust-up is off. The Hollyfield-Ruiz world heavyweight title, scheduled this Sunday, has been cancelled. Announcing its postponement earlier this week, organizers cited the worsening neck injury to WBA (World Boxing Association) champion John Ruiz. Evander Hollyfield, who aimed to become the first fighter to claim the world heavyweight title on five separate occasions, said he respected the decision. He could wait for Ruiz, he added.

It was also heard that the postponed WBA heavyweight title fight between John Ruiz and Evander Hollyfield could take place in China in late October. Niu Lixin of Great Wall International Sports Media as saying the fight will happen on Sunday Oct. 28 "if everything goes smoothly."

A Farewell to 'Chinglish'

Beijing launched its second anti-"Chinglish" campaign yesterday, a program targeted at correcting English-language public signs and slogans.

The Beijing Speaks English Program Organizing Committee has invited English professors and consultants to examine key districts and companies ready for the onset of the 21st Universiade Games on August 22. Beijing Today readers interested in adding their two cents to the campaign can contact the Beijing Speaks English Program Organizing Committee, the Foreign Affairs Office, People's Government Of Beijing Municipality, 2 Zheng Yi Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100744. E-mail address: BSE2008@263.net or bjtoday@ynet.com (Beijing Today)

EDITOR: LIU FENG XIA LEI DESIGNER: PANG LEI



A sax player entertains beer festivalgoers.

Loud Outdoor Festival Lights up Wangfujing

By Chen Huiying

Pink lotus flowers are perched in bottles. Flags, balloons and flowers decorate the drinking areas of the 16 breweries.

They stroll, they chat and they clap. Loudly. And some Beijingers even go shopping in the Wangfujing pedestrian street, which has been transformed into a giant open bar over the past week.

Mostly of course, they drink. Summer is peak season for beer consumption. Organizers are trying to foster a Chinese beer culture with more interaction between brewers and consumers, artists and audi-

Singers and dancers bask in the applause. There are no stages this vear. The sponsors want to make every beer station an open-air bar. Now people can communicate with the bands and singers directly. They

feel excited about the change.

Compared to the first Wangfujing beer festival, the second is not just better, but cleaner. Barbecues unfriendly to the environment are forbidden. Organizers suggest vacuum-packed food instead. Street cleaners work overtime and each drinking booth has 3-5 staff members monitoring proceedings.

As night falls, the vendors glance at their empty barrels. Children play with a big inflatable beer bottle, see-

sawing it back and forth. An artist sketches a foreign tourist. More and more people roam the street. Popcorn and jazz are popular. Revolutionary black and white movies are on show, alongside folk songs and traditional music. The music, the neon lights, the snack food, the aroma of beer invade the senses at the 2nd Wangfujing Beer Festival, sponsored by Wangfujing Construction and Management Office July 27 to August 5.



US Secretary of State Colin Powell touches down in Beijing Capital International Airport.

Photo by Gloom

Powell: One Day Not Enough

By Xia Lei/

Tong Qingan/Wang Yanyan

US Secretary of State Colin Powell made a one-day official visit to Beijing on Saturday where he met Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Premier Zhu Rongji, Vice Premier Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

At a press conference held on Saturday, the man sometimes touted as a future US president answered questions including one from a Beijing Today reporter, transcribed below:

Beijing Today: My question is what kind of things impressed you most during your one day visit to Beijing and do you think one day is enough for you to learn about this nation? Thank you.

Powell: No, one day is certainly not enough, and I spent most of the day just going back and forth on the east-west main road, from one government office to the other, looking out the window of a car. And so I

wouldn't presume to suggest that I to move forward. saw a lot of the country, or learned through personal observation a lot

of what's going on in China. But even just that experience, of going up and down that road several times today and looking out the window and seeing all the construction that has taken place since I went up and down that street in 1973, and went up and down that street again in 1983; to see what that represents in the way of transformation in China, what that represents in the way of an economy that is moving forward and starting to join the international economic system in generating a level of wealth that permits that kind of development to take place and eventually spread out across the whole society; to see what that represents in the way of gifted, skilled political leadership that would move the country in that direction, and to see what that also represents in terms of the energy of the Chinese people

So a lot has happened since my earlier visits and in the 20-odd years since relations took a different turn between the United States and China. And much more will happen in the future with accession to the World Trade Organization, and I believe much more needs to be done, because as you suggest, it is not just what you see in a main street in Beijing, but what you see in the furthest reaches of the nation.

And until all people are touched by a level of success and given hope and food on their table and education for their children and a roof over their heads and a satisfactory life, then political leaders must continue to work to develop an economy that will do that and to open a society that will give people a pass to achieve their dreams and achieve their ambitions, hindered not by government, but by their own willingness to dream big and to work hard.



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4th Subway to Begin Investigation Work

7 Underground Lines by 2008

By Liang Qi/Huang Bo /Zhao Pu

After Beijing won the Olympic Bid, relevant departments of Underground Building reacted quickly. It was good news that the investigating work for the 4th subway from Shi Lihe to Huilongguan will start at an early stage. The Olympic Feeder Line of 5th subway, Wangjing Feeder Line from the light railway directly to the airport, the magnetic suspension from Dongzhimen to the Capital Airport and Chuiyi route from Zhichun Street to the Summer Palace, are all added to the coming project. Thus, the total number of subway routes to be constructed will be 7. The current underground lines under construction are the light railway from Xizhimen to Dongzhimen, Batong

Line from Bawangfen to Tongzhou, and the 5th Line from Songjiazhuang to Beiyuan. By 2008, the lines mentioned and the current circle Line and 1st Line will form the basic frame of the Beijing subway network with 150 kilometers of lines. Therefore, it surpasses the planning target of reaching 120 kilometers by 2010.

The 4th Line is also called Xidan North South Ling, crossing Xidan Commercial District northwards and connecting Qinghe and Huilongguan. It extends to Yizhuang in south. Thus, it not only spurs on development, but also solves the problem of population transfer to outside the city. The 5th Line directly serves the Olympic Games. Because of its intersection with 1st and Circle Line, it Crowded subway to be expanded can send passengers from different



Photo by Chen Shuyi

directions directly to the Olympic Village in 3 minutes. According to the construction trends in Beijing, subway lines outside the 3rd Ring Road are over ground, whereas, the Olympic Feeder Line is underground. One reason is not to interfere with the scenery on the ground. The second is to guarantee rapid dispersal of spectators and athletes to relieve traffic pressure. In addition, there is no middle station in Wangjing Feeder Line on the light railway and the magnetic suspension from Dongzhimen to the airport. This is to ensure dispersal of passengers to the airport on time. Thus, they can lead passengers to Wangjing and the Dongzhimen large-scaled hub of communications by underground, taxi, public transportation and so on. Chuiyi Line then connects with Zhichun Street

and the Summer Palace, serving for tourism. It is also said that the total sum of investment is about 45 billion RMB.

Jiang Fan, President of Beijing Building Design Institute, says that today there are 13-rail traffic networks. After winning the Olympic Bid, the network will be changed. At present, 3 hubs of Dongzhimen, Xizhimen and Beijing Zoo have started. Liujiaoyao will follow them soon. It is estimated that there will be 6 hubs of communications for passengers to transfer subways. Shopping stores and parking lots directly connect with subway stations. Apart from that, some relevant departments are exploring shock absorption, sound insulating technologies and enhancing subways' environmental protecting per-

Olympic Science & **Technology Action Project Approved**

Providing 2008 Beijing Olympics with Scientific-Technological **Backing and Intellectual Support**

By Sun Haidong/Zhao Pu

A project called "Olympic Science & Technology Action Project" has been approved by 9 relevant institutions, including the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Beijing municipal government. This project is designed to provide scientific and technological backing and intellectual support for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In this project, the most advanced science and technology achievements and best talents around the country will be utilized in carrying out major projects including Knowledge Innovation Project and Natural Science Foundation.

The project is focused on experimental demonstrations. These include science and technology achievements and joint research of some key technologies in the areas of environment, traffic, digital Olympics, sports research and popular science. Scientific and technological measures will be adopted in the areas of sand prevention and control, sewage systems, water saving, clean energy resources, clean coal technology, clean automobiles and solid pollution control. The traffic control system will be fully developed and utilized to build high-speed communications in Beijing before 2008; some upto-date IT achievements will be adopted in the areas of digital news information systems, intelligent games control systems and information safety systems. In the area of sports scientific research, specialists will focus on the research and development of medical service systems, sports equipment, scientific training technologies and also steroid testing technologies.



Taking in Hutongs from a pedicab

Photo by Chen Shuyi

3 Companies Join Forces in Shicha Lake Tourism

Promoting the Hutong Tour

By Huo Lei / Gao Hui /Zhao Pu

Beijing Hutong Cultural Tour Co. Ltd., a tourism company well known for Hutong tours, has just finished its reorganization on July 27. A new company with the same name has been established with joint investment by Beijing Capital Tourist Co. Ltd., Beijing Threelake Investment & Management Center and the original Beijing Hutong Cultural Tour Co. Ltd. with a total investment of 10.52 million yuan.

The two other companies that participated in the reorganization are also doing well in the tourist market. Beijing Capital Tourist Co. Ltd. is a listed company with a large tourist source and client network both at home and abroad. Beijing Three-lake Investment & Management Center has priority in exploiting the tourist business in the Shicha Lake area. The intention of the reorganization by the 3 powerful tourist companies is obvious: they are combining the advantages of capital, resource and market to expand tourism

After the reorganization, the company will play an active role in constructing infrastructure in the area around the Lotus Market and Yandai Slanting Street, and also make efforts in further development of some traditional programs like the Hutong tour and the Lake tour. At present, they have drafted plans to develop winter tourism in the Shicha Lake area and are doing research on ice-related activities. Moreover, other related tourist products are under research.

"Efficiency Sheet" System for Returning Chinese Students

Setting up a Company in 6.5 Days

Photo by Chen Shuyi



"Efficiency Sheets" make registration a breeze

By Wang Jianbing/Li Yongshou Chen Yan / Zhao Pu

Dr. Deng Xiaocheng, a Chinese student back from Britain, came to Zhongguancun Science Park to set up an environment protection company. In just 3 hours the following day, he registered in the Department for Industry and Commerce of Haidian District. And on the third day, he became the president of his new company. The "Efficiency Sheet" system has already brought convenience to him and 340 other people by condensing the registration period from 2 months down to only 6.5 working days.

The so-called "Efficiency Sheet"

is a special document issued by the Service Office for the Pioneering Business of Returning Chinese Students in the Zhongguancun Science Park. With this document in hand, the returned students can smoothly pass all the green lights in the registration process in the departments of industry and commerce, and tax and customs.

The issuing of Regulations on Encouraging Overseas Chinese Students' Pioneering Business in Beijing last May, led to a sharp increase in the number of overseas Chinese coming back to set up companies. But their enthusiasm was affected by the inefficient service in the registration process. In an attempt

to solve this problem, Beijing Personnel Bureau consulted relevant organizations like the Bureau of Public Security, the Administration for Industry and Commerce, the Tax Affairs Bureau, the Education Committee, the Beijing Municipal Administrative Bureau of State Land, Resources & Housing; while Zhongguancun Science Park also consulted with relevant departments under Beijing municipal government and the government of Haidian District. The "Efficiency Sheet" system then came to life.

At present, over 600 out of the 6,000 registered companies in Zhongguancun Science Park have been founded by returning Chinese students. The "Efficiency Sheet" system has been running for nearly 1 year and 815 "Efficiency Sheets" have been issued. 340 beneficiaries have set up their companies with a total registered capital of 440 million yuan.

Beijing's 100,000 Civil Servants Receive English Training

By Meng Huan / Zhao Pu /Yuan Yuzhong

The excitement and joy of winning the Olympic bid still can be seen on people's faces. The success has already caused many concrete changes in people's daily lives. English learning is one of them. Beijing's 100,000 civil servants are also getting involved in this trend and will attend English training. Moreover, 600 of them will receive intensive training to ensure fluency of communication in English with foreigners. Ordinary staff are mostly supposed to master at least 100 dialogues to be used, on a daily communication basis.

The government of Chaoyang District has arranged a comprehensive training programme for their staff, with English forming an important part. This is one of the many moves to improve the quality of government personnel.

Beijing Closes Sand Quarries to Curb Dust

Beijing has shut down 81 sand quarries this month, which are the main source of dust in western Beijing.

An official of the municipal environment protection bureau said that if all sand quarries in Beijing are closed, the total suspended particles in the air will drop by five percent, according to Monday's "Science and Technology Daily".

Earlier this year, Beijing Mayor Liu Qi asked the districts of Fengtai, Shijingshan, and Mentougou to shut down all their sand quar-

After one month's efforts, the 81 sand quarries in the Yongding River channel were closed. The Yongding River is one of the country's four flood-controlling rivers. The sand quarries within the Yongding River were hidden troubles to the security and management of flood con-

The official also said that if all the sand quarries are closed, Beijing will have much cleaner air. (CCTV)

Beijing Hosts Robot Fire Fighting Contest

China's second robot fire fighting contest was held on July 29 in Beijing. Over 90 teams of students from China and the U.S. attended the competition.

These small robots all look alike, but they are equipped with different computer programs and sensors. In the contest, the robot enters a small maze, searches for a lit candle, and extinguishes it as fast as possible.

The founder of the contest is Jake Mendelssohn from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. While attending Saturday's competition, he praised Chinese robotmaking.

Hundreds of middle schools in China provide students with the opportunity to work with robots. The fire fighting contest undoubtedly raises students' interest in science, and fosters their cre-(CCTV)

By Jim Yu

Premier Zhu Rongji has ordered commercial banks to pull out funds illegally channeled into the country's stock markets by the end of September; the order is the possible reason for Black Monday. These sorts of funds are estimated at over 500 billion yuan.

Following a week long consecutive plummet, the A share market rushed downward as soon as it opened at an already low level. The indices of the two A share markets tumbled the whole day, making losses of more than 5%, which was a rare situation in recent years.

The Shenzhen sub index closed at 4113.94 points, losing 226.32 points, with the turnover of 7.46 billion yuan, while its counterpart, the Shanghai composite index, finished at 1956.82 points, washing away 108.91 points. Turnover was 10.27 billion yuan.

The hero of the day was Funds Xingye (SSE: 500028), which hit the 10% up limit in the desperate situation for other shares. Less than 20 shares survived the day, whereas a lot of shares

Meet Black Monday

5%0055

were in the mire of 10% down lim-

Brokers suspected that the shock to the stock market, including state share reduction, initial public offering of a flock of companies and loss pre-alert of

a large number of companies, has been exaggerated.

Yet some people suspect that the Premier's warning led to the result.

However, the Hong Kong-based newspaper quoted a domestic securities insider as saying since many of the

funds are in the form of private investment, it is hard for the government to regulate effectively.

The Premier's order, alongside the measures taken by the central bank to guard against illegal entry of funds into the stock market, aimed mainly to grant more power to the executive departments in their probes, according to the insider.

Currently, China bans commercial banks from trading stocks.

Zhu's order was behind the steep falls in the mainland's stock markets on Monday. Last Friday, the central bank said it had punished four bank branches and a dozen bank officials for illegally lending money to firms for stock speculation.

The four bank branches in the northeastern city of Shenyang had financed share trading of some companies through accepting or discounting their commercial

The move led to "the inflow of RMB 510 billion in bank funds into the stock market", the central bank said. Several bankers violating the rules were sacked.

By the end of Wednesday the two A share markets then washed away the 7 day plummet with a turnaround.

Affected by tariffs, the import of Japanese cars decreased dramatically. Car import situation in the first half of the year was different from that of the second half

German Cars to Run Past Japan

By Yu Lixian

It is believed that the current 100% import tariff on cars from Japan will definitely be cancelled by the end of this year.

China's car imports in the first half of this year amounted to twice that of last year, but things in the car import market will change dramatically in the second half of this year. according to statistics. Due to a 100% special tariff temporarily imposed by the Chinese government, the import of Japanese cars will decrease sharply. At the same time, the import of European cars, mainly German cars, will increase in large quantities.

Statistics show that China imported 17,853 cars, with an average of less than 3,000 each month, over the first half of last year. It is estimated that the amount has reached 39,000, with an average of more than 6,000 each month, over the same period of this year. The rapid growth of car imports over the first half of this year was not arranged deliberately by the relevant government departments.

Professionals believe it was due to three major factors. One is the effect of tariff reduction: the rearrangements of tariffs decrease the import cost by 5%. Another is demand improvement: the demand for cars of the Chinese market, and the increased demand for imported cars exceeded expectations. The third are factors related to exchange rates: compared to the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen, German mark and Euro devalued by more than 10% this year compared with that of last year, which in turn decreased the cost of

Car import markets correlate closely with the change of national policy. The special tariff imposed on Japanese cars has meant that at least 4,000 Japanese cars have been detained at customs. On the contrary, the import of European cars, especially German cars, will be redoubled. Korean cars will also see a bright future. The special tariff on Japanese cars influences car imports mainly in three respects: quantity, cost and price, and variety of imported cars.

As China will enter WTO in November, and Japan has announced that its restriction on China's agricultural products export will expire in Nov. 8, it is estimated that the policy of imposing 100% tariff may probably be remove

Transfer of Contracted **Farmland Accelerates** in China

The transfer of farmland contracted by farmers for large-scale cultivation has been accelerating in China's eastern and southern regions.

Some 93 million hectares of the country's farmland have been distributed to some 230 million rural households since the famous household contract responsibility system with remuneration linked to output was adopted more than 20 years ago.

According to sources at the agricultural department, farmers transfer their contracted land to enterprises involved in industrialized agricultural operations. In this way, both the farmers and enterprises can earn more, and resources are better used.

The transfer began when an increasing number of farmers from traditional agricultural bases left the land for greener grass in cities due to a sluggish farm produce market, and the heavy financial burdens placed on farmers in recent

In coastal regions, many companies, foreignfunded firms, institutions and even urbanites are now able to contract farmland to engage in large-scale agricultural operations.

In China's southernmost Hainan Province, for example, a total of 40,000 hectares of farmland have been rented out. (Xinhua)



As land managers, farmers are free to make money off the land Photo by Iceberg

Jitong & Unicom to Issue A Shares

By Michael Yu

Chinese telecommunications firm Jitong Network Communications Co. Ltd. plans to raise 2.55 billion to 4.55 billion yuan (\$308-550 million) in a private placement to expand its networks and user base, Qi Mingqiu, its president said Wednesday. Meanwhile, China's number two mobile phone operator China Unicom Ltd. told brokers its mainland parent will win approval soon from Beijing authorities to raise 10 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion) in a domestic A-share

"The money raised will be invested mainly in integrating networks and user resources," Qi

Qi said Jitong had spent hundreds of millions of vuan this year on buying more than 20,000 km of broadband networks and it would seek to buy metropolitan area networks next year, when he hoped prices would have dropped.

Jitong, one of China's seven licensed telecommunications operators, would revive its listing plans and seek domestic and foreign listings at the end of this year, or early in 2002, Qi said.

China Unicom expects to get the okay soon for an A-share offer-

China Unicom managers told brokers that the issue size would be comparable to the A-share offering announced last month by Sinopec at 11.82 billion yuan, Infocast Ltd. said, citing unidentified

China Unicom Group would inject its 77 percent interest in the Hong Kong and New York-listed China Unicom Ltd. unit into a company that will be established to issue the A-shares, A Hong Kong financial website quoted sources

China Unicom said in April that its parent was considering a domestic A-share listing to help it pay for its planned CDMA-standard mobile phone network.

Shares in China Unicom rose 0.37 percent on Wednesday to HK\$13.55. The counter is up 13.39 percent so far this year versus a decline of 17.33 percent for bluechip companies on the Hang Seng

An economic slowdown in developed countries, a downturn in the cargo business and an increase in fuel prices lead to

Loss Warnings on Airlines

By Tiffany Wu

China Eastern Airlines Co. said on Monday it expects to post its first interim loss since 1998 due to a slowing global economy, a downturn in cargo business and higher fuel costs.

The Shanghai-based carrier's warning on its first half 2001 results drove down its Hong Konglisted shares 6.25 percent to HK\$1.05 and caused its Shanghailisted A shares, off limits to foreigners, to drop 7.83 percent to 5.18 yuan on Monday.

China Eastern said in a statement its business had been hurt by an economic slowdown in the United States, Europe and Japan, a downturn in the cargo business and an increase in fuel prices.

Investors continued to punish Chinese airline shares due to a gloomy sector outlook, sending China Southern down 3.5 percent, although the spokesman denied losses would be incurred. China Eastern - which already warned of a first half loss - was also pushed down 1% this Wednesday.

An official at Air China's publicity department said the carrier posted an interim loss because more than half its routes are to overseas cities - less lucrative than domestic routes.

"We are in the red for the first half because the world economy is not doing well," she said, but did not give a figure.

Fortunately for now, China Southern is better sheltered from global economic woes than the two others because most of its business is domestic, analysts said. China's economy grew 7.9 percent year-onyear in the first half of the year.

About 80 percent of Southern's revenues are generated from the booming domestic market.

Popular with students, Li-ning Sneakers grab first place on billboards Photos by Zhuan Jian Ads Swamp Boards

Universities finally allow commercial advertisements onto campus

By Zhang Ran

Scraps of information fliers scramble every inch of the bulletin boards on campus. It is hard to find an inch to paste another piece. And it is even harder to thrust in advertisement. That is why advertisement companies are quick to invest in establishing ad-territory in forecast of high profits.

Beijing Tiandi Dafang Advertisement Co. has taken one step early to sign contracts with about 30 universities. 22 stain-



Students look at academic advertisements on the bulletin boards

less-steel billboards have been set up in China Youth Politics Institute. They are all for reading and information exchange for the school; but one third is used by the company for advertisement. The conditions are that the advertisements be healthy and positive, excluding tobacco, medicine, and hygiene products.

This is the first time advertisement has been publicized through a commercial channel inside universities, where an academic atmosphere is considered ideal for studying.

However, advertisements for higher classes on GRE, TOEFL, and graduate school entrance examinations are what students are familiar with when they take a glance at the bulletin boards. Temporary advertisements for hiring tutors and renting services compose the other parts. All this seems to set a good start for commercial advertisements to keep their heads high on campus.

The cooperation between universities and advertisement companies represents the market mechanism that has been working since the open-door policy.



Poor Old Ding Lei

By Liang Hongling

To Ding Lei, the founder and acting CEO and acting COO of NetEase.com, the year of 2001 was really a tough one. In June, NetEase' former CEO King Lai and COO Susan Chen quit with the probe and financial audit unfinished. On July 19, 2001, NetEase received notice that NAS-Photo by Dageng DAQ intends to delist

company's American Depositary Receipts from the NAS-DAQ National Market at the opening of business on July 27, 2001. The reason being that the company has not yet submitted its Annual Report on Form 20-F to NASDAQ, nor to the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Ding Lei once again becomes the focus of the media.

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State Capital to Quit Commercial Enterprises

By Yue Ming

At a recent symposium on business in Beijing, officials from the Beijing Municipal Commerce Commission (BMCC) said that apart from certain businesses, state capital would gradually withdraw from Beijing's commerce enterprises, especially from state-run service businesses.

According to the officials, state capital will withdraw completely from small service businesses in Beijing such as public bathrooms, barbershops, repair shops, restaurants, small inns, laundries and photo studios. For certain businesses with a fairly big amount of assets, capital renting business can be adopted, considering the difficulty of a lump-sum withdrawal. For the big and mid-sized retail and wholesale business with promising prospects, the state capital can have a share holding. For small businesses without competitive ability, the capital will withdraw completely.

The New Yansha Holding (Group), which owns several old brand state enterprises like Fangshan Restaurant, has a majority of subsidiaries invested with state money. Cao Yinan, vice director of the Propaganda Department of New Yansha, describes the policy of withdrawing state capital as imper-

ative. According to Mr. Cao, competition in the commercial field is extremely fierce, the problems existing in state enterprises such as redundant personnel, high burdens, rigid management and low initiative among staff often lead to a loss of opportunity in competition. Confronted with the pressure of China's near entry into the World Trade Organization, it is of special significance to carry out this reform to meet the market.

During interviews, employees in some service businesses generally agree that as large funds spread into numerous small enterprises, the advantages of mid-sized enterprises are seldom brought into full play. The withdrawal of state capital brings pressure, but also brings opportunity. On the one hand, state enterprises have to face increasingly intense competition; on the other hand, they will speed up the course of marketization and establish an advanced management structure. Moreover, new capital will add vitality to the poorly managed enterprises.

The BMCC also indicates that in order to withdraw capital successfully, the government will in the initial stage maintain a relatively small percentage of holdings. As for special cases requiring an absolute share holding, the stake should not exceed 51 percent.



After two decades of reform and opening up, private sector has already been playing a dynamic and important role in the country's market. The municipal government's decision to withdraw state capital from the commercial enterprises marks a milestone and leaves larger room for the private investment to play.

Photo by Zhuang Jian



Since the mid of 1980s, rural labor started pouring into the big cities in the country, offering sufficient and cheap human resources to the development of the private sector. But fierce competition occurred when the number of laid off workers from the state owned enterprises increased since the mid of 1990s.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

City's Private Sector Employs One Million People



The private sector in Beijing employs over one million people, accounting for ten percent of the overall employment in the city, according to government officials.

The private sector also contributes more than ten percent of fiscal revenue to the government in some districts and counties in Beijing.

Government statistics show that more than 80 percent of private enterprises and self-employed businesses are dealing in the service industry, but some are entering the real estate, information technology, and entertain-

ment markets.

The private sector is considered a solution for the increasing employment pressure in the country caused by massive layoffs from loss-making state-owned enterprises.

Yet, analysts said that the private sector in Beijing still remains a fraction of the total economic structure, compared with its counterparts in Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong provinces in coastal areas. The private sector still needs further development and support from the government. (Xinhua)

Photos by Zhuang Jian



China's Futures Transactions Soared by 70%

Experts say that the country's futures market has "embarked on a new road of steady growth"

China's futures transactions during the first half of the year rose by 70 percent on an annual basis, according to recent statistics released by China Futures Association (CFA).

In the January-June period, China's futures market reached some 47 million deals, with a total turnover of 1.15 trillion yuan (about 138.55 billion U.S. dollars).

Analysts here say that China's futures

market has "embarked on a new road of steady growth" after years of recession and overhaul.

Mr. Liu, manager of a future broker in this capital city of northeast China's Jilin Province, said China's futures market is " very promising" this year.

He said his company has hit a record high during the first half of this year, with a total transaction of 9.7 billion yuan (about 1.17 billion U.S. dollars). Experts attending a recent symposium

in the coastal city of Dalian also believe the futures market is recovering significantly.

"While business operation is better regulated, transactions have increased and the market is becoming more rational," said one of the experts.

Meanwhile, experts pointed out that China's futures market still has great potential for further development, as more products can be placed on the market.

Mr. Han, who works at a futures broker in Jilin City, told Xinhua that China's upcoming accession to the World Trade Organization will probably lead to the phasing out of some old rules that do not conform to international practices.

"As regional protective measures and administrative interventions decrease in number, the futures' market will be able to operate more effectively and in line with the laws of the market," said Han. "In the long run, China's futures industry will report further growth."

(Xinhua)

By Yu Lixian

"Beijing's successful bid to host the Olympics will certainly produce a huge specialized market, which will surely bring huge business opportunities. The attraction is to both Chinese and foreign companies." An employee with the LG Electronics Group of the Republic of Korea (ROK) said to Beijing Youth Daily. LG has decided to increase its investment in China by US\$430 million over the year 2003, mainly in high-tech digital products, the information industry and white goods.

As a matter of fact, many ROK companies, including LG and Samsung are taking advantage of the huge upcoming business opportunities in China over the next few years. ROK products may, in the name of the Olympics, be energetically promoted in China in the near future.

hina in the near future. In the Australian Embassy, Martin Walsh, LG to supplement investment in China; Australian companies to seek cooperation with Chinese counterparts; Samsung's promotion to tour China

Olympics Quicken Pace of Foreign Investment in the Country

the Commercial Counselor with a badge of Beijing's bidding for the Olympics on his collar, recalled Australia's experience.

According to the Commercial Counselor, Australia's profits from hosting the 2000 Olympics exceeded US\$10 billion. Australia's economy was extremely stimulated. Beijing's successful bid to host the Olympics will certainly bring a huge specific market, so as to promote Beijing's, as well as China's, economic development. Australia has been organizing fifty-plus companies and

will come to China to seek cooperation in September.

In addition, an official from the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the ROK, also gave an explicit indication. The ROK's geographical position is similar to China, and it has experiences of holding the 1988 Olympics. The ROK is probably becoming the most favoured in the specific Olympics market in Beijing. The Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) will hold the ROK Products Exhibition in Beijing in September. 130-plus firms

have applied to enter the exhibition, exceeding more than one half of the originally assigned number. An official from the Samsung Electronics Group of ROK has also revealed that, since Beijing's successful bid to host the Olympics, Samsung has been touring all over China to carry on after-sales service. Some relevant departments, like the marketing department, will make further plans to choose the most featured products and put a large-scale marketing plan into action for China's key areas and key customers.

China More Attractive to Foreign Investors

By Liang Hongling

According to the latest survey done on foreign direct investment conducted by AT Kearney, a major U.S. management consulting firm, China has replaced Britain and taken the second ranking among the countries wooing investors. And China's manufacturing industry, wholesale, retail industry, financial industry, communication service and public service are the most attractive areas to investors.

Also in the light of the assessment of 70 indicators affecting the business environment in 60 countries conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit of The Economist magazine, the U.S. will remain the top ranked country for investors in the next 5 years and cover 25 percent of total amount. Next is the UK and Germany. China is in the fourth rank and the top one among developing countries. It is estimated that 576 billion US dollars will flow into China per year, making up 6.5 of the total amount. It is higher than that of 1996 (5%), showing China's bright future in attracting foreign direct investment.

Securities Business Opened to Overseas Investors

By Yue Ming

Approved by the China Securities Regulation Commission (CSRC), SUN WAH Group Kingsway China Investments Ltd. of Hong Kong set up its first representative office in Beijing in late July. The company was also awarded a certificate by CSRC to run B-shares, mainly as a sales agent and stockbroker, thus becoming one of the first Hong Kong invested financial companies to enter this market on the mainland.

According to reliable sources, CSRC's approval on Kingsway's case implies that the Chinese government would give positive support to patriotic Hong Kong invested financial corporations, and welcome them to take part in the economic reform and development on the mainland.

More Foreign Investment in Beijing Economic Zone (BEZ)

The Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone, where many foreignfunded firms are gathered, has attracted more overseas investment, said officials within the

Li Fengling, director with the administration committee of the zone, said a remarkable trend of this investment is that it is operated more efficiently, and targeted toward sectors with high technological qual-

According to government statistics, the gross industrial output value and export of enterprises in this zone between January and June hit 1.64 billion yuan (198 million U.S. dollars) and 567 million US dollars, respectively, up 602 percent and 158 percent over the same period last year.

Also during the period, another 125 enterprises, including 45 foreign-invested ones, have been approved to invest in this zone.

Since its establishment in August 1994, the zone has settled 862 enterprises with a total investment of 3.35 billion U.S. dollars. Among them, 253 are foreign-funded with investment of about 2.58 billion U.S. dollars.

(Xinhua)

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City Greets Universiade



By Chen Huiying

162 pictures are pieced together to form the background of a special poster "Transcend the Rainbow". As a gift for the 21st Universiade from Beijing Second Foreign Languages University (BSFLU), the poster will be displayed in the Organizing Committee H.Q. during the event.

The words "Transcend the Rainbow" come from the Rainbow Volunteers, the volunteer group for the coming Universiade. The 162 overlapping pictures symbolize the coming to-

in the event. The poster reads, "Smiling is the common language of peoples all over the world."

The 21st Universiade will run from August 22nd to September 1st this summer. More than 150 countries have entered, and over 7,000 athletes will compete.

The idea of the poster was initiated during a campus club festival by the BSFLU society association. All the models were recruited from students and faculty in BSFLU, and all the photos were shot on campus. The students designed and made the post-

gether of all the nations participating er themselves, taking one and a half months to complete the work.

> The 110×90 cm poster is big enough so that everybody featured in it can be discerned: lovers, roommates, teachers and foreign students. 70% of the student models will serve as volunteers during the 21st Universiade.

There is only one copy of the poster, which is preserved in BSFLU. It will serve as a historical record of the university, showing the freshmen a wonderful story about the Beijing

Private J.V. Colleges an Attractive **Alternative**



Photo by Sun Ming

By Sun Ming

Private joint venture colleges are attracting the attention of many students and their parents. This was particularly evident at the advisory session of private colleges held in Ditan Park on July 28 and 29.

According to the director of administration of the Beijing International Management Institute, their students will study in Beijing for four years. In the fifth year, they can attend an American education center located in Singapore. On completion of the course, they'll obtain a bachelor degree and graduation certificate from a prestigious American university. Although the advisory session has closed, there have been more than 100 phone calls every day from eager students and their parents seeking more information.

Private joint venture colleges usually conduct all their courses in English. Most of the teachers come from overseas, and the courses are the same as those of the foreign colleges or universities they are cooperating with. "We transfer the foreign courses to China." said a staff member of a private college.

"I firmly believe that it will be of benefit to me, by raising my English level, if I choose a private joint venture college. And the opportunity to go abroad is also attractive." said one student.

Of course, there are some contrasting opinions. One woman questioned the quality of the courses run by these colleges. Moreover, the tuition of private joint venture colleges is generally higher than other private colleges, making them too expensive for some parents.

12,000 Prepare for Opening

By Zhu Lin

Dark little faces and colorful paper flowers appear every morning at the playground of Beijing No. 4 High School these days despite the hot weather. With the 21st Universiade nearly upon us, 1,500 high school girls are busily preparing for the last part of the opening ceremony.

Chen Weiya is the chief director of the opening ceremony. On July 29, in order to get a view of the whole playground, he climbed up to the roof of the central platform. He was confident with the design of the last part. "At the end of the ceremony, 12,000 performers will come onto the arena. Then, to the music of singers from the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong, a huge pigeon the symbol of peace, will fly into the

First Green Hotline Opens in Beijing

By Ivy Zhang

Dial 9516889966, you'll hear a sweet voice with pleasant music in the background - "Hello. This is Watch Over Homestead free environmental hotline. Press 1 for exchange category and proportion of waste paper. Press 2 for door-to-door service. Our staff will take a detailed note about your needs" - only in Chinese for

This is the first free environmental protection hotline in Beijing offering service around the clock. Launched in April this year, the hotline encourages and provides recycling services of waste paper. By calling the door-to-door service, you can exchange your waste paper for recycled paper or pencils.

In Beijing, some NGOs like Global Village and Friends of Nature have been actively educating the public in an effort to increase their awareness towards environmental protection and have already made great achievements. However, Beijing Longhui (Dragon Sunray) Cultural Development Company, the sponsor and organizer of Watch Over Homestead activities, wants to promote the environmental protection cause from a different angle - ACTION.

The purpose of initiating this project is to enable everybody to participate and transform environmental protection ideas into people's daily habits. "What the individual needs to do is just move their fingers for a call." Li Ming, General Manager of Dragon Sunlight noted, "Our staff goes to the caller's home to collect waste paper on weekends and service corporations on workdays.

At present, Liming and his men are working with the local government and community centers to expand their services with a focus on each community, rather than individuals.

Three million tons of waste paper is produced annually in Beijing. But only 20% to 30% percent of waste paper is recycled. "Usually we receive tens of calls everyday. At peak times, the figure can reach 400, thanks to media promotion." Liming

Environmental protection is far more than a public welfare activity. It is one of the rapidly growing and promising industries of the 21st century. With many Green Hotlines and many Limings sprouting up, our city is sure to become cleaner and more beautiful.

Exhibition Reveals Heart of Glass

By Chen Ying

The first major international "liuli" or glass art exhibition in China has opened in Beijing. The exhibition features works by Chang Yi and Yang Huishan, the founders of Liuli Gongfang, the most renowned contemporary glass art workshop in Chi-

The 2001 Contemporary Glass Exhibition is being held at the Millennium Monument museum, next to the Military Museum. Works of many international artists, including Stanislav and Jaroslava Libensky, Livio Seguso, Dale Chihuly, Kyohei Fujita are also on show.

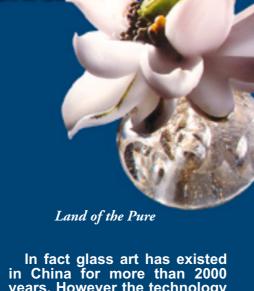
Many of the pieces from Liuli Gongfang display themes rooted in Buddhism and traditional Chinese culture, and are highly popular with the audience, who swarm to their counter to pur-

chase souvenirs. Most of the Liuli Gongfang pieces are made by Yang Huishan. Yang Huishan is something of a legend. A movie star in Taiwan in the 70's, she has won two Golden Horse Awards for acting and the best actress prize at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival. Despite a successful acting career, she left the movie business in the 80's to devote herself to a completely differ-

ent field, founding "Liuli Gongfang" with the di-rector Chang Yi. She has since used her individual artistic gifts and her acute powers of observation to create sculptured works in glass. The work titled "Land of the Pure" is imbued with a traditional Chinese artistic vocabulary and

philosophy.

The most important contribution of the couple may be that they make glasswork not just as ornaments to decorate a cabinet or table, but as a work of art that the owner really cherish-es. Many Chinese say that they be-came interested in glass art because they like Yang and the style of her works.



in China for more than 2000 years. However the technology was lost for a long time. Yang Huishan and Chang Yi say that their goal is to find and keep the Chinese tradition and culture. But the process is so painstaking that it often takes several months to finished one piece. Many admirers say Yang's works should not belong to the world. They say the works are made by a spirit who has fallen into the world accidentally.





Photo by Sun Ming

Follow the "Cyan" Brick Road

In the front of Tai He Dian, the main hall of the Imperial Palace, the two sides of the path used only by emperor are wearing

new clothes. According to the director of the administration office of the Imperial Palace, when maintenance was last carried out, in the 70's, concrete bricks were used. However the laws pertaining to cultural relics state that servicing materials should be of the same quality as the culture relics themselves, so cyan earthenware bricks were chosen for this maintenance. The bricks, fired through exactly the same method as that used in the Ming and Qing dynasties, were made in Suzhou. More than 1,000 cyan bricks have been used to pave about 150 meters of road. (By Sun Ming)

Tangshan: **Remembering the Dead**

By Chen Ying

Innumerable candles in honor of the dead are lighting the streets of Tangshan, marking the anniversary of the devastating earthquake that leveled the city 25 years

The cataclysm struck on July 28,1976. Lasting just 20 seconds, it killed 240,000 people and left 160,000 injured. 7,200 families were wiped out in what has been described as the world's worst earthquake in 400 years.

Today a new Tangshan stands on the ruins of the old city, and the people, while never forgetting that terrible day and those who perished, look confidently towards the future.



The international invitation volleyball tournament for middle school boys held by Beijing Jingshan School finished Monday. Teams from America, Thailand, France and Japan participated in the 6-day tournament. The team from Kings College of Thailand won the championship, Osaka High School team from Japan ranked second, and Beijing's Jingshan School team came in third place.

(By Qiu Ling/Yu Qilin)



By Sun Ming

- ★ The building of a new Capital Museum will start at the end of this year. The new museum, expected to cost 1,232 million yuan, will be located at Muxudi, opposite the Yanjing Hotel.
- ★ On July 25, after the success of Beijing's Olympic bid, the Mayor of Seoul sent a congratulatory letter to a Chinese reporter, one of his friends. With the letter, he enclosed a series of detailed suggestions for the Olympic Games in 2008.
- ★ From August 8, those who park illegally will face heavy fines, ranging as high as 500 yuan.
- ★ According to the investigation report of an American real estate agency, the office rents in 25 countries around the world have fallen 3.4 percent in the past half of this year, compared to those of last year. Only three cities defied the trend, with rising office rents, namely Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.
- ★ From October 1, a firstclass train service will operate between Beijing and Shanghai. These high speed and high comfort trains will only have sleepers.

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EDITOR: LI XIN DESIGNER: LI SHI

There are now more than 20.711 HIV cases reported in 31 provinces and autonomous regions across China, with 741 **Aids patients and 397 Aids** deaths. The reported HIVinfected population figure has risen 37.3% since last year, while the official figure for HIV-positive people in China now 500,000. Thus, AIDS is growing at an official annual rate of 30% in China.

hen the diary of a young HIV-in- his journal on June 27. fected Chinese appeared on one of China's top literature websites, www.rongshu.com, the hit rate rocketed. During the last two weeks, there have been thousands of visits.

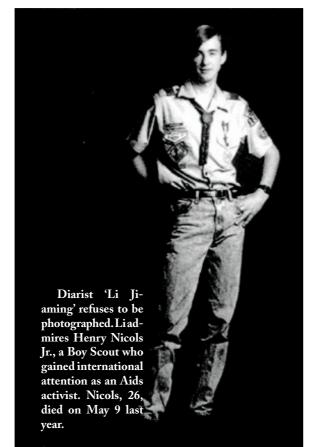
Under the pen name "Li Jiaming", the author claims his HIV virus came about through his only sexual experience with a prostitute and called the website offering

After 15 days' investigation and discussion, the editorial department finally decided to publish it online. Some traditional media like newspapers and TV stations in Shanghai and Beijing have also picked up the story.

Li accepted interviews, but refused to be photographed or recorded, fearing he might be recognized by family or friends.

Li lives alone in a small southern China town, suffering with HIV and working towards paying his medical fees. Since his online debut on July 12, the diary has been read by more than 100,000 people in two weeks.

Following are a cross-section of rongshu.com readers' responses. They mostly adopt pen-names.



Dead Man Talking

Diarist Tries to Halt Relentless March of Aids

"If I can let a person learn about the basic precautions against Aids and keep from dangerous behavior, then my words are valuable."

"Please do not discriminate against us, for we have already paid the price of our young and healthy life." "Stepping on a nail, some people curse and walk away. Others clean the wound and walk away silently. Some people set up a sign and write "Danger!" on it in their own blood.

-Excerpts from the diary of Aids victim Li Jiaming

By Xiao Rong

'Tolerance and kindness'

Pu Cunxin, actor and ambassador for the fight against Aids:

"When I read the story about Jiaming in Beijing Youth Daily, I was deeply impressed by his honesty and cordiality. He has no doubt made a fatal mistake, but he didn't escape reality or shirk his social responsibilities.

"On the contrary, he has been trying to warn others to take precautions against Aids. From this point of view, all the volunteers for the nationwide battle against the spread of Aids, including me, should show him respect and support.

"As to those friends who disagreed with Jiaming's behavior, I hope they can help Jiaming through tolerance and kindness instead of criticizing him as an apologist."

"Smiling Stranger":

"I don't think Jiaming is worthy of sympathy and support. For those who have taken risks and done something wrong, it serves them right.

"What's more, if we pity those who get Aids due to unhealthy sexual relationships, how about those poor peasants and similar groups who got infected just because of blood transfusions?"

"Bottle in the Sea":

"Those who have the courage to admit their mistakes in public and face their miseries are really brave persons. So is Jiaming indeed. No matter what kind of illness he suffers, we should treat him equally.

"After all, nobody is perfect. What matters is the attitude towards one's mistakes. We should be tolerant of other's wrongdoings and be strict with ourselves.'

'Shameless' behavior

"Mexico":

"Li Jiaming is a whoremonger who has got HIV because of his shameless behavior. To some extent, a whoremonger is the same as a prostitute, both of whom are not noble.

"So even if he depicted his story as a moving one and claimed himself to be out of luck, he is still the degenerate dregs of our society."

"Flying Ice":

"Those who realize their mistakes and do something beneficial for others should always be fully respected, no matter whether they are infected through blood transfusion or sexual intercourse.

son who contributed to the better knowledge of HIV among ordinary people, even though he

was also infected through his sexual habits.

"Hero Boy":

"It takes a long time for us to turn from fearing Aids to learning some basic knowledge of this disease. Most of us know nowadays that we will not get infected just by shaking hands with someone who is HIV posi-

"Nevertheless we may still feel awkward in real cases. Anyway, it's still progress for our society, as it's better than discriminating against them. To this extent, Jiaming has warned some of us to keep away from Aids with his true words.

"Even if he was to blame for visiting prostitutes, the terrible outcome of being a HIV-positive may be a deterrent to those who also have had such experience."

'Opinionated' media

"Little Bee":

"rongshu.com" is a literature "Take Singapore for example. website with the characteristic The government flied a flag at of "original Chinese language half-mast for a HIV-infected per- works worldwide". But to tell the truth, the article by Li Jiaming is not worth reading at

"I even doubt the truthfulness of the story. What the editor emphasized is the social significance of the article, rather than its literary features. On this point, rongshu.com doesn't possess pure motives.

"In addition, readers of this website are mostly sentimental young people who are keen on literature. So it's really easy to impress and move them with Jiaming's sad story."

"Dancing Cat":

"I think it's not important to discuss whether rongshu.com has been popularizing the story or not. As a commercial website, it's not unusual to popularize topics as long as it has beneficial effects.

"The story of Li Jiaming has undeniably become a successful topic nationwide, arousing so many different voices online as well as great attention paid to the prevention of Aids."

"Blue Bird": but also contributes to society.

Education about Aids brought

by the article to thousands of

people is much more effective than eliminating pornographic novels or films.

"Only through great fear of Aids and sexual diseases or through objective knowledge about the health problem ourselves, can we prevent or stop indecent behavior in the long

"Since the first Chinese found HIV positive in 1985, the Aids catastrophe has become an increasingly urgent concern for our country. Therefore, it's just the right time for rongshu.com or newspapers and TV stations to launch the great battle against Aids. Only when we have full knowledge, can we win the bat-

"Big Apple": It's natural for the media to be opinionated. But that attitude must be diluted to some extent, as the media should act as a communicator, not a preacher. I don't think those who oppose The writing and publishing of the intervention of the media the diary is not only the respon- are cold-blooded. They just don't sible behavior of a human being, want to be lectured to like children, as everyone has his own understandings and judgements.

SOUND BITES

"I look forward to working with my Chinese colleagues to broaden and deepen the areas of our cooperation. I'm not here to look for enemies, but to look for ways to broaden cooperation and move forward."

-US Secretary of State Colin Powell at a press conference held during his oneday official visit to Beijing, July 28.

"The Group of Eight, representing some of the most powerful and wealthiest nations in the world, claim to tackle poverty by providing Internet connections and computers. But what they forgot to include is the plug and the power."

-World Wild Fund for Nature press release

"Rarely does a day go by when there isn't another announcement of millions of foreign-investment dollars being pumped into China. The mainland, including Hong Kong, takes close to 70% of all foreign direct investment in the region and that percentage is likely to grow in the years after China enters the World Trade Organization.

—Trish Saywell, "Far Eastern Economic Review," August 2

"For the sake of millions of SMEs in 21 APEC economies, their survival depends on everyone's understanding on how every business and every economy should be connected in the future."

-Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the three-day APEC meeting in Bangkok, August 1

"Rather than giving \$30,000 to a snakehead, why not invest the money in a local business that will provide for a wouldbe emigrant's prosperity right here in China?"

-H.W.M. Schoof, director general of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Dutch Ministry of Justice, urges Chinese immigrants to stay home.

(By Xiao Rong)

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? -Daddy's Little Boy Does

By Ivy Zhang

This April, a man in Guangdong province bought a RMB 1 million business in the name of his 7-year-old son as a birthday gift. When asked whether he was trying to avoid inheritance tax, he replied the real reason is to provide a regular income for his son as a guarantee for the boy's education and future. Opinions follow:

Ann and Bill Keucher, from Florida, USA

In the US, we are allowed to give \$10,000 to any number of people in one year without the receiver being taxed. After \$10,000, that money is taxable. Such a law would protect the income of PRC citizens from such deals as the one to which you refer.

I am not sure the government has kept up with the increased money that many Chinese people now have. This is because it is unaccustomed to dealing with a growing economy with rich people who want to protect their investments. If what the man in Guangzhou did was legal, he probably did what was best for him and his son. If it was illegal, the government should go after him. Either way, the government needs to look carefully at its laws to be sure they are fair both to the people and the state.



Normal University I disapprove of what the father did for his son. As we often say, "You can be poor, but you can't stint on education. You can be rich, but your child can't be given a big fortune." The point is to foster a child's ability and develop their skills, instead of preparing everything for them.

As a Chinese, we can draw lessons from our history. The first bank of China emerged in Shanxi Province. However, all rich families there experienced overwhelming decline after three generations.

In terms of education, money itself can provide no guarantee for a child's future. Americans are doing well in this regard. When I visited the US in 1996, I had a chance to dine with a billionaire whose personal assets totalled \$2.5 billion at that time. During the dinner, his son, who was a freshman at university, came over to ask his father to lend him \$5,000 for a new car. He promised to return the money after two years' work. The son was asked to write a receipt for the money he borrowed. I was stunned by what I saw and asked why. The billionaire answered, "The money I own is what I make and I am only responsible for supporting my son until he reaches 18." The son, although having a billionaire father, had to make his own living at college by dumping garbage and cleaning toilets.

WO JIANZHONG

Without struggle, children will not cherish the fortune made by their parents' hard work. Hence, as to leaving a big fortune to children, the disadvantages outweigh the benefits.



Accounts Manager, VTEL Greater China

Regarding tax evasion, a lot of people do the same thing to legally duck taxes by buying houses under their child's name. One of my colleagues just bought a house for his daughter at a cost of nearly RMB 1 million. It is a popular phenomenon in China now, and I think the parents should not be blamed.

On the one hand, parents have every reason to prepare sufficient funds to cover the higher education expenses for their children's self-development, such as going abroad to pursue higher studies.

On the other hand, there is no sense in doing everything to support children after they become adults, no matter whether they have a job or not. Young people



should be encouraged to explore their own way of building a business and earn their own crust.

Suppose I had a million yuan. I would not choose to buy a house because it's both time and laborconsuming to enter the business of letting property. There are also many risks in making real estate investments due to the lessdeveloped social system, and the return on investments is limit-

Instead, I would study different approaches and make sound and profitable investments. By doing this, I would have a lot more time with my child. Another option would be to take my son traveling around the world. Giving children a chance to expand their horizons and improve themselves is far more important than leaving them a mere house or hanknote.

Liu Shoubao, director, **Beijing PH Law Firm**

In China, inheritance tax is not officially levied despite the fact that the levying of such a tax can be sourced back to the early 1950s. Inheritance tax depends on social development. When a society is not fully advanced, with a less developed market and limited personal assets, there is no solid foundation for levying inheritance tax.

With economic development, private ownership composes a large portion of the economy, with personal assets on the increase. At this time, as China advances economically, tax serves as a way of balancing the economy and personal income.

Levying inheritance tax is an unavoidable trend for social development. However, to prevent evasion, inheritance taxes should be formulated and implemented simultaneously at a unified rate, as practiced in western countries.

In the case of people purchasing houses under their children's names, such behavior is legally correct and reasonable. However, the owner's identity needs to be validated. If the purchase is made for the purpose of deliberately putting off repayment of debts, the creditor has the right to request ownership be revoked. The government should impose proper controls over such matters.

E-mail: survey@ynet.com

Weekly Survey

0.65 Vocation for Job Seeker

According to the newly

published statistics of the first

half year - January to June- the

number of employees in cities

and towns all over the country

has declined to 114,040,000,

which is 4,940,000 less than the

unemployment rate is 3.3%,

contrasting with 3.1% of last year.

has continuously sunken to

Additionally the registered

The rate of re-employment

same period of last year.



often mentioned by people in Beijing than by those in the two other cities. This indicates, in the eyes of Beijingers, that American cell phones are highly representative of the United States.

Perceptions also vary among people of different age groups. Consumers sets (46%) and cars (13%). Other Japanese products made little impression on Chinese consumers.

Statistics in the three cities differ remarkably. Cars were far less frequently mentioned by Shanghainese than by Beijingers or Cantonese, but they listed both cell phones and hi-fi equipment, neither of which were mentioned by people in Beijing nor in Guangzhou. Few people in Guangzhou mentioned TV sets but they did recognize

ers, with the rate of mentioning at 13%, 11% and 9% respectively.

General Motors was mentioned most frequently by Shanghainese, probably due to its joint-venture corporation being located in that city. Beijingers tended to be more familiar with brands of American mobile phones and cars. Consumers in Guangzhou made frequent mention of IBM, but they did not seem to share common interest in other American products.

Famous Brands in Japan

The first three Japanese brands mentioned by consumers were Panasonic (27%), Sony (24%) and become the 'face' of a country. What are the reasons that these brands stand out and enjoy such great honor? The conclusion of the survey is the qualities they have make them what they are.

American products win for the large proportion of high technology. People are mostly impressed with their hi-tech, advanced techniques, sense of luxury and appealing advertise-

Japanese products are well known for their superb quality and innovation. Their characteristics include: reliability, first-rate quality, innovation, fashionable and appealing design.

European products are seen

11.1%, 4.9% lower than last year. Statistically the percentage to find a vocation for every job seeker is 0.65%. Analyses point out that the

employment issue cannot be solved quickly. A majority of "the invisibly" unemployed will soon leave the unemployment center and finally surface into a dominant problem.

In consequence a peak of unemployment consisting of a mix of the later and natural offemploymed workers will excercise serious pressure.

30% Condom Unqualified

A random sampling survey made by the State Administration of Product Quality Supervision and Inspection showed results which are greatly worrying. Among 23 enterprises and its 50 types of condoms which had been tested, only 35 types were said to be qualified.

"Netizens" in Japan Decrease

A survey discovered that the Japanese netizen (Internet citizen) number was 33 million in May. According to a net observing company "Net ratings", that number has already decreased about 0.9% when compared to numbers in April even though a natural increase had been expected with the development of the Internet.

The analysis given by "Nikkei Business", a Japanese publication, states a lack of original input and further development of the ICP site has made it hard to attract and keep netizens utilizing the services. (By Wei Feng)

Ad. TEL:13601226884

Pre-media AD.Co.

ew faces of

America, Japan and E Computers, TVs and Cars

By Wei Feng

A recent survey about imported goods reveals that some popular products are closely connected in people's minds with the country in which they are manufactured. That is to say, certain products have become the new faces of America, Japan and Europe.

According to the survey, conducted in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, by Shaohai Market Investigation Corporation, people associate America with computers, Coca-Cola and pistachios, Japan with household electrical goods, cars and sushi, and Europe with mobile phones, clothes and perfume.

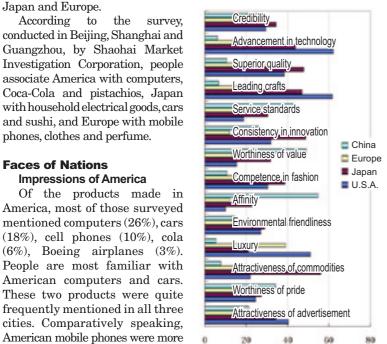
Faces of Nations Impressions of America

Of the products made in America, most of those surveyed mentioned computers (26%), cars (18%), cell phones (10%), cola (6%), Boeing airplanes (3%). People are most familiar with American computers and cars. These two products were quite frequently mentioned in all three cities. Comparatively speaking,

aged 18-45 are more familiar with sushi as a typical Japanese food, in computers, cars, mobile phones and Cola; those aged 46 or above are more familiar with cars, computers and air-conditioners respec-

Impressions of Japan

Among Japanese products, people are most impressed by TV



¥18888

¥14988/1688

¥11688/1268

contrast to people in the two other

Impressions of Europe

Generally speaking, consumers are familiar with European cars (25%), mobile phones (13%), clothes (10%), watches (7%), TV sets (6%), cosmetics (6%) and perfume (5%).

European products, consumers in Beijing were mostly impressed by cars and cell phones, while consumers in Shanghai and Guangzhou mentioned a wider range of products, including clothes and watches.

Males listed cars, cell phones and TV sets, while females listed cars, clothes, cosmetics, perfume and watches.

Famous Brands

The survey showed that wellknown brands are closely identified with their country of origin. Such famous brands include IBM, Motorola, Coco-Cola in America, Philips, Mercedes Benz and Nokia in Europe and Panasonic, Sony and Toshiba in Japan.

Famous Brands in America

Generally speaking, IBM, Microsoft and Motorola enjoy great popularity among Chinese consumToshiba (13%).

Consumers in Beijing Shanghai both focus on the brands three already mentioned, while consumers in Guangzhou add Hitachi to the list.

Famous Brands in Europe

The first three European brands that people are likely to think of are Philips (15%), Mercedes Benz (14%) and Nokia (13%).

Among European brands, Beijingers were most familiar with Philips and Mercedes Benz. Shanghainese were most impressed with Philips, Siemens and Swiss watches. The latter is a product rather than a brand, indicating that Chinese consumers only have a general conception of Swiss watches, but lack knowledge of particular brands. Cantonese mentioned a more diverse selection of European brands.

Making of Famous Brands

It is a matter of great significance for certain products to People in Beijing, Shanghai

comments on Chinese products: good service and reasonable prices. There is a general feeling of pride in using domestic products.

Graph by Tian Ye

Caricature /anitaerling@yahoo.com

as more environmentally friendly, but other advantages were not clearly defined.

Chinese Products

and Guangzhou share similar

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But the saga is not over yet

By Li Shouen

Liu Lianren was a Chinese prison laborer during World War II. When he was a strong young man in his early thirties, he was seized in his home village and sent to Japan to work in a coal mine in 1944.

After escaping from the mine the following year, he survived in the wild for 13 years in a cave in the heavy forest of Hokkaido.

He was found by a hunter in 1958 and returned to his home with the help of the Chinese government and some friendly Chinese and Japanese individuals.

Japanese Government Appeals Ruling After years of silence,

justices. Liu Lianren finally made his voice heard to seek an apology in 1991 from the Japanese government. At the beginning he was denied his requests.

Finally Liu Lianren lodged a complaint to the Tokyo Local Court in 1996. After 23 debates, the case was closed on July 12 this year, with the court ordering the Japanese government to pay 20,000,000 Japanese yen to Liu.

Liu Lianren never came to hear the good news. He passed away in September 2000 at the age of 87.

On July 12 this year, the Tokyo Local Court ordered the Japanese government to pay 20,000,000 Japanese yen in compensation to Liu Lianren. The reason was: "The Japanese government neglected the obligation of protection".

However the government refused to accept the decision, protesting 1 year of brutal suffering that, "the Japanese government had no 13 years of caveman life

obligation to protect Liu Lianren, 38 years of silence for no one can predict whether his 5 years of lawsuit life was under threat". It conse- 23 debates quently lodged an appeal to the Tokyo 1 qualified victory

Supreme Court on July 23.

Liu Huanxin, son of Liu Lianren, who took over the case after his father's death, returned to Beijing on July 30. He says he was excited beyond words when he heard the good news, for neither he nor the lawyers expected to win.

To the question of how the Tokyo Supreme Court will decide the case, Liu Huanxin says it faces a dilemma: if it decides against the government, then the government will lose face; if it rules in favor of the government, then it completely overlooks the fact of my father' suffering.

After his return to China, Liu Lianren described his ordeal and how he managed to survive.

Capture and Escape

Liu Lianren was a peasant in



Liu Huanxin, son of Liu Lianren, is carrying on his father's quest for

Photo by Zhuang Jian

the cave for 13 years, keeping himself alive on whatever he could find, such as fruits, and the meat of wild animals.

Gaomi county, Shandong

province. In 1944, the

31-year-old was seized by

a group of Chinese troops

under Japanese control. He was transported to

Japan from Qingdao, as a

"captured soldier" togeth-

er with 800 countrymen,

and assigned to work in

a coal mine. After endur-

ing the brutal conditions of the mine for a year, he

escaped on July 31,1945.

had surrendered to the

allied powers, Liu re-

mained unaware of the changed situation. As a

result he stayed in hiding, doing what he could

to avoid being found by

Life in the Cave

Liu Lianren lived in

After the Japanese

After one year, he brought a little stove and a kettle into his possession. He gathered other useful tools while searching for nourishment in the mountains. An umbrella and a piece of water-proof cloth in the third year; two needles in the fifth year; and an American style army overcoat in the sixth

Liu Lianren's life in Hokkaido consisted of only two seasons: summer and winter. Every full moon was one month and every sunrise was another day. During the 13th winter, Liu Lianren was discovered by a hunter. At first, he was thought to be a spy, however it was eventually determined that he was

> a Chinese prisonlaborer from World War II, and on April 10, 1958, he took the first step on his way home.

Scars never healed

Though Liu Lianren finally escaped, the hurt wasn't so easy to be healed. Some of his habits rooted

After returning home, even though he had a comfortable bed, he just couldn't fall asleep in it. He sat up to

from the 13 years' experience never left

sleep for over 10 years. Another painful habit was, he would often go outside in the middle of the night to ensure that no wild beasts were about to attack him. No matter how often his family assured him that nothing could hurt him in his own house, he just couldn't help

He also kept his hatred for the yellow-green color of the Japanese army uniform. Once, his son got an army overcoat in this color, Liu Lianren asked him to have it dyed. No one in the family was even permitted to speak of this color.



Liu Lianren (centre), the "caveman", enjoyed his remaining years happily with his wife Zhao Yulan and his family. Photo by Sun Xigang

By Ivy Zhang

Universal was the first Hollywood entertainment company in China, with the opening of the 'Universal Studios Experience Beijing' (USEB) in September, 1998. It was also the first such entertainment company to close in China, pulling the plug in June this year, less than 3 years after the grand opening.

Situated in the basement of the Henderson Center, one of Beijing's largest downtown business complexes, USEB was also Universal Studio Group's first recreation project investment in Asia. Its facilities included a central stage, Hollywood Adventure, Star Maker, Club California and a souvenir shop.

supported the company's other businesses, including facilitating Universal Music Group's presence in the Beijing music festival, and furthering contacts in support of Universal's TV & film business.

This fits with the company's ongoing strategy of continuing to develop the Chinese market. A Universal Studios' business delegation recently visited the country, and Universal Music Group has already built an active presence. In addition, Vivendi, Universal's environmental business is also well established in China.

It's just a piece in a chess game. The opening of Universal Studios Japan Osaka symbolizes

Management needed establish an operation in China, develop their share in Chinese market and enhance people's trust so as to ask for a higher price from Vivendi.

Although the project ended in failure, USEB was a big success in terms of marketing promotion. Before USEB's opening, Universal Studios' brand recognition was only 0.004% in China, while this figure had increased to 24.7% by early 2000.

"It is like playing chess. Sometimes, you move a piece knowing that you'll give it up for the final success. If you look at the whole picture just from the angle of project investment, it's rather too superficial or one-sided."

Back in 1998, not many Chinese people

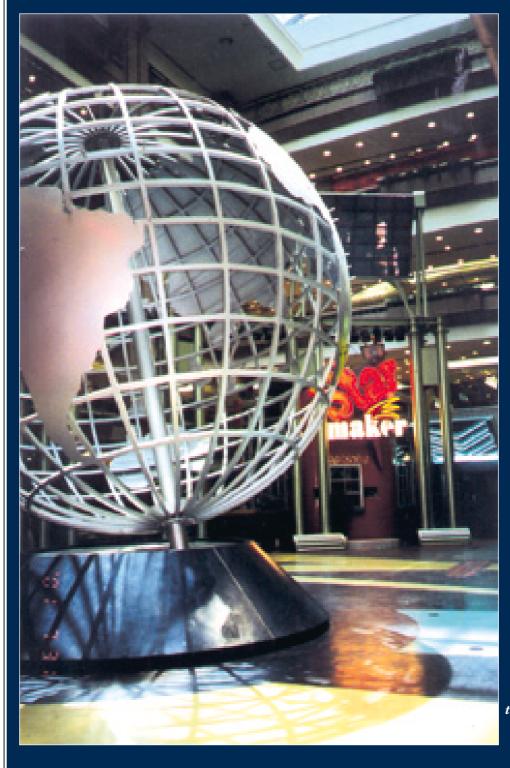
most of its goals. The only thing left to do is to keep the USEB project profitable, which is of little significance to Universal Studios as a whole.

Wong failed to obtain a rich knowledge about China and his operating approach was not adapted to meet the consumers' needs.

What actually caused the failure of the USEB project? Someone who had a business relationship with Universal Beijing and requested anonymity addressed this issue from an onlooker's perspective.

First, the project does not represent superior products and the highly advanced technologies of Universal Studios. The entertainment

Universal Studios: A Strategic Retreat from China?





The Lost World is not lost in China. Buses carrying Universal Studios advertisements will continue to promote the brand name.

There are many reasons behind the closure of USEB. The failure of a particular project does not the whole business. USEB is gone, but it is unlikely that Universal Studios will ignore such a potentially lucrative market as China for very long.

 $The\ deserted\ USEB\ awaits$ the removalists. Photos by Ivy Zhang

USEB was intended to be a short-term project. During this time, we've achieved our goals and learned a lot about the market.

According to General Manager Peter Wong, USEB was designed to create an exposure for the Universal Studios brand and give Universal better understanding of the Chinese consumer. Asked why USEB closed up recently, Wong noted that USEB was intended to be a short-term project. "During this time, we've achieved our goals and learned a lot about the market. We believe it's time to take what we've learned and evaluate the possibility of creating other opportunities for Universal's unique brand of entertainment in this part of the world."

As the first recreation presence of Universal Studios in China, USEB also

USEB that has accomplished its tasks and it's time to withdraw.

A former employee at Universal Studios Beijing office shared his personal opinions about USEB project and speculated on the causes of the recent closure.

The USEB project served a number of purposes; creating an opportunity to enter China as a recreation project, establishing the Universal brand name and laying a solid foundation for other Universal products to land in China, and paving the way for the successful opening of Universal Osaka.

In 1998, Universal Studios confronted were successive acquisitions and mergers. Before the launch of USEB project in China, Universal Studios just finished its merger with Seagram and Seagram was in the process of selling Universal Studios to Vivendi. Studios. A limited number of its products had been introduced into China. But, three years later, the situation is greatly improved, largely due to the USEB project. And, through public relations and promotional activities, Chinese children and youth have an increased understanding about Universal Studios' brand name. To a certain extent, Hollywood is equivalent to Universal Studios in many people's minds. In this sense, Universal Studios in China has won out in competition.

anything about Universal

Furthermore, the opening of the Universal theme park in Osaka in March signaled that the mission of Universal Experience was accomplished. With numerous Chinese travel agencies signing agreements to transport tourists to Osaka every year, USEB has reached

facilities had no real attraction to Chinese customers

Second, the prices were too high for most people. The entrance ticket cost 60 yuan for the Universal Adventure which covers a small floor space and accomodates nothing exciting; and 90 yuan for one photo in the Star Maker. They are not selling products, but a brand name.

Third, the operating model does not suit the needs of a rapidly growing and welldeveloped city. In Beijing, similar domestic projects have been running for many years. Universal Experience is nothing new.

"Successful marketing and sales consists of four key elements, we call them the 4 Cs, meaning Cost, Consumer, Convenience Communication. Universal Beijing lost their bets on three of them."

EDITOR: ZHANG XIAOXIA DESIGNER: LI SHI



By Hu Xiaoli

Zhao Xinru has been giving

lectures on birds to around

20 people every Wednesday

evening in the past 3 years.

The middle-aged ornithology

professor and his audiences

are members of Green Earth

governmental environmental

of Beijing Normal University, has been a volunteer in GEV for

five years. His responsibility is

to give ornithology lectures and

Zhao, a 48-year-old professor

Volunteers (GEV), a non-

protection organization

organize bird-watching

protection.

activities in order to boost awareness of environmental

"As birds are the most

environment, watching and

studying birds, in some way, is the same as watching and

environment, so protecting

birds is a way of protecting

in his small laboratory at

vacation, he is still busy

researching and attending

Beijing Normal University.

Although this is the summer

meetings. However, Zhao has

never quit his responsibilities

as an ornithologist in GEV. "I

love birds and I wish more

people would love birds, for

they are the best friends of

Zhao was born into an ordinary family in Beijing. Most

of his childhood was spent

in a big Siheyuan quadrangle.

"We had a big courtyard which

was about 100 square meters."

This was the place where the

planted dozens of kinds of

flowers and trees, where a

great number of butterflies,

bees, and birds congregated.

Those little animals captured

the imagination of the young

most of his time watching them

beautiful songs. The courtyard

buzzing with living creatures

planted seeds of harmony

boy deeply. He would spend

flying and listening to their

research came from.

inspiration to go into biological

In the courtyard, his parents

Captivated by

World of Birds

humankind."

ourselves," Zhao said seriously

sensitive animals to the

caring for our own

At the age of 17, Zhao quit studying and became an art teacher in a middle school. He later enrolled in Beijing Normal University in 1977. He chose biology as his major following his heart's love for nature.

The Bird Teacher

After graduation, he became an ornithological The love for nature quickly expanded into a love of teaching. Zhao mentioned an ecology box he designed in his classroom. "Every time students walk into the classroom, they directly go over to the box to watch the living creatures in it. Thus they can watch an animal's whole living process, and notice its surroundings."

For field practice, Zhao taught students to catch birds with a net, make records, and then release them, rather than shooting birds as sport. His rich knowledge and true love for nature have sparked his students in ornithology.

As time passed, his lessons even attracted some students from other to run an extra course entitled Bird Banding and Preservation for all the students from 15 other universities and colleges in

"Birds are the best species in the animal as an object of scientific study. Besides, this is also a very hands-on way of teaching conservation to said.

Zhao pumped all his energy in the extra course. Besides the regular courses, he arranged for students to visit the conservation area to watch and band birds. "This red one is a neck ring is a leg ring for a crane.'

between nature and human beings in this young heart.

professor at his Alma Mater.

spontaneous interest among

departments. Their interests in ornithology inspired Zhao Beijing.

kingdom and easy to watch university students," Zhao

Sometimes they would make the bird rings by themselves. for a swan, and that blue one want to preserve nature." "The Most Civilized **Activity in the World"**

In 1996, Zhao was invited to guide a bird watching session organized by GEV. "About 40 volunteers from different circles, including several foreigners, took part in the activity." Although the volunteers were very enthusiastic during the session, they could not see any birds because of a lack of basic bird-watching skills. In contrast, a French volunteer stayed distinguishably calm and skillful. She watched birds and made records professionally with the telescope and bird guidebook. "She was only an amateur birdwatcher in her country," Zhao said emotionally. This was when Zhao realized his obligation to spread knowledge of ornithology to a broader range of people. According to Zhao, bird

watching, as a way of promoting environmental education, is the most civilized activity in the world. In the USA, there are more than 4,000,000 people watching birds in a year, and Japan has got 50,000 regular amateur birdwatchers. But there isn't any mature birdwatching tradition in China. "What we lack is not the enthusiasm of the public, but the professionals to educate people," Zhao said, "And I believe it is my calling to be one of these disseminators.'

From then on, Zhao has been a regular member in GEV. Besides the lecture every Wednesday evening, Zhao has also organized volunteers to watch birds every month in mountain forests, reservoirs, city parks, and other nature reserves. On his desk there was a pad of papers entitled Avifauna Research Records, which were written by these amateur birdwatchers.

"What satisfies me most is that we have already got 30 core volunteers in this activity and some of them have become the leading members among Beijing's birdwatchers," Zhao said. Zhong Jia, a journalist from *People's* Daily, can recognize more than 300 species of birds and even can choose the spot for bird watching. "These volunteers who have certain knowledge about birds and their living environment will consciously put scientific ecology concepts into their work and management. They will never destroy the ecological system consciously or unconsciously and will become the future disseminators of environmental protection." Zhao said.

Two big wishes

"When I was young, I could see woodpeckers, tits, culvers, and many other birds in my yard, but now you have to walk for a long time or go to a remote place to find even an ordinary bird," Zhao said with a sigh. A volunteer involved in the report said, "Any extinction of a bird is a kind of disaster, an unredeemable loss of nature and human beings. People may already be losing the harmonious relationship with nature."

Nevertheless, Zhao is very happy to see more and more people begin to be conscious of the environment and get involved in environmental issues through the activity of bird watching.

Zhao said he still has many wishes to complete. One big wish is to collect all the birdsong in China. Though he has collected about 200 kinds of birdsong in 20 years, there are still more than 1000 kinds of birds altogether in China waiting to be found. Zhao hopes more and more bird-lovers will help him to fulfill this dream.

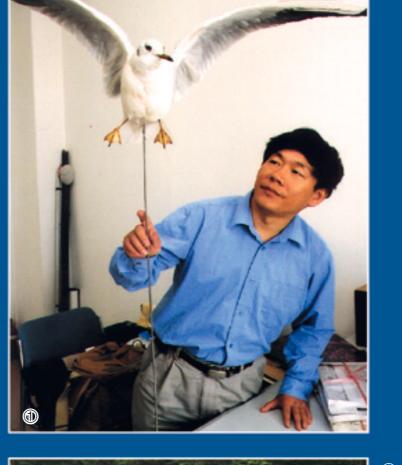
"Another big wish," he said, "is to train a group of volunteers who can grasp basic knowledge about birds and try to protect their environment and therefore conserve our own ecological balance." As he wrote on the back of his book *The Atlas* of Beijing Birds, "Only when Chinese ornithologists are joined by thousands of birdlovers in studying and taking care of birds, can we at last become their true friends."

"I hope to see more people loving birds. When that happens, more birds will come back to Beijing, and I will be able to hear their beautiful songs again just as I did in my childhood courtyard," said the middle-aged man emotionally.

Zhao is always likely to help and talk with any bird lovers through his e-mail address Zhaoxinru@263.net.

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EDITOR: ZHANG XIAOXIA DESIGNER: LI SHI

By Miao Yajie

Over 200 colorful, distinctive pieces of alass from 70 first-rate artists all over the world are now on display at The China Millennium Square, Beijing. The 2001 Contemporary Glass Exhibition, representing 21 countries, is the largest ever held by the glass media.

Still Life, Still Alive

To glass art connoisseurs and even ordinary viewers, this exhibition is beyond doubt a grand banquet. The world of glass is like a cool Shangri-La in the burning month of July. Not only the most famous artists, but also those who are

making the most exciting and innovative work are invited to represent as many nations as possible. All the great names in the world of glass art are here with their enthusiasm and understanding of the material. The largest work reaches to tons, while the smallest needs a magnifying glass.

Glass boasts a history of over 5,000 years. In terms of contemporary glass, artists began to surmount the origi-

nal definition of the material. They not only value the great expertise of the craft, but also they began to realize the importance of light, of mould, and most importantly, of the concept in their works. Each artist in the exhibition has a unique style derived from his or her distinctive creative

Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtova, the most renowned glass artists from Czech Republic emphasize the special glamour of light in their work.

Works of Dale Chihuly from the United States are usually oversized and opulently swirling. From Venice, home of one

of the most important

Photos by Jacky

Think Crystal

Beyond Imagination

traditions in artistic glass, comes

Livio Seguso. The geometric di-

mensions of his works seem to ex-

press the permanent problem of

the plastic formality of glass and

the full interpretation of contempo-

tion of glass texture with gold and

platinum, which is fully impreg-

As the successor of the re-

nowned "pate-de-verre" (lost-wax

casting) family technique in 19th

century France, Antoine Leperlier

is inspired by the idea of time,

space and memories. The visual

understanding of the evolution of

nated with the spirit of Zen.

Kyohei Fujita uses a combina-

rary sculpture.

time and memory could be best illustrated through

Life Still Alive" in the exhibition. **Chinese Liuli Speaks to the World**

a series of four pieces titled "Still

Liuli, an ancient Chinese term, refers to glass. Archaeological discoveries show that as early as the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) and the Warring States (475-221 BC), the art of Liuli had reached a high level in China. Perhaps owing to the fact that jade and pottery were considered

and contemporary glass art in the

The founders of Liuli Workshop are Loretta Yang Huishan and Chang Yi. They began pate-deverre by melting the white wax candles bought from a corner store in an electric cooker! Three years later, Liuli Workshop displayed what Chang Yi called "a few pieces of work that we had somehow through pure luck patched together" in a small-scale exhibition in Japan. Just then, they found out



to be of supreme value in ancient China, works of Liuli tended to be overshadowed somewhat, though it does not in the least mean the disruption or demise of Liuli as a

technology and an art. However, before Liuli Workshop was founded in 1987, there were no direct links between Chinese Liuli

that China might have had patede-verre 2,100 years ago.

A Japanese scholar told them, "In the tomb of Liu Sheng, Prince Jing of Zhongshan, in which the famous suit of jade sewn together with gold thread was discovered, two eared green wine cups 11cm in diameter were also found." He added, "They might be the earliest

Though they were shocked to exciting discovery also helped Linese Liuli speak to the whole world is the drive for their persevering endeavor since then. In as little as glass. Is this a miracle compared with the several decades' strive of batat Galleries in New York, who also contributes in organizing this exhibition. "And actually they sinforefront of what's happening in the glass world today."

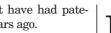
The World Will Know China, and Vice Versa

Starting from zero to the sponsorship of such a grand exhibition, Liuli Workshop did make the world hear something, but is the voice loud enough? Undoubtedly, if the exhibition was held in the United States, the largest creative and collective market of modern glass art, which owns 70% of the world's glass galleries, the influence of the exhibition might be different from holding it in Beijing. But not necessarily. "Most people didn't go to Monet's exhibition, but they knew Monet. Why? Through books and

catalogs of his exhibition. So the catalog of the exhibition will be seen by all of the artists in the world. Other countries may see what's happening in China and vice versa," said Hanpson

West Lake the Mirror

By Loretta Yang Huishan



pate-de-verre pieces in China."

find pate-de-verre was not a foreign technique in making glass, the uli Workshop to find a way deep rooted in Chinese culture for their future development. To make Chi-15 years, Chinese Liuli has become a sparkling stroke in the world of those established artists? "No, I think it's very hard work, they've been very industrious," said Ferdinard Hanpson, president of the Hagle-handedly bring China to the

The historical relics on show

included the Purely Golden Longevity Buddha (Amitabha), the Guanvin (Avalokitesvara) Statue Carved in Yellow Sandalwood, Buddhist Scriptures Handwritten by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, and Sariras of Sakyamuni. Additionally, 33 priceless sariras, which are made up of the remains of high-ranking monks, were shown to the public for the first time.

The White Stupa at Miaoying

Miniature Landscape Show as Silent Poem

By Kang Miao

"The purpose of this exhibition is to introduce more knowledge about miniature landscapes to the public," Liu Tianbao said in an exhibition from private collections of pots and rocks on July 26th.

The exhibition, which will end in early August, displays over 150 items, including flower pots, miniature landscapes and beautiful rocks in Odd Stone Garden, also called Qishiyuan near Shichahai. The private collections came from Liu Tianbao, Liu Tianming, Chen Shichang and two other collectors.

"According to the material used, the old pot can be divided into a porcelain pot, pottery pot and purple sand pot. As for function, it can serve as a flower or plant pot, a miniature landscape pot, or orchid pot". Liu Tianbao introduced the detailed information of the exhibition. Pots are very important for miniature landscapes, for they can help people to understand the whole work. The majority of the pots in the exhibition were made in the Ming or Qing Dynasties, reflecting the high level techniques of pottery making in China before the 19th century.

"Miniature landscapes are the



Photo by Zhuang Jian

combination of natural and artificial beauty," Liu said. These ornamental landscapes have a long history in China. The trees, flowers, water or the rocks are planted or installed in the pot through an artificial process. Thus, the scenery becomes a miniature of nature in a little pot. "Lots of writers and artists appreciate miniature landscapes very much because they reflect the theme of traditional Chinese painting," Liu said. "Since they can reveal the beauty of nature, they are called a three-dimensional picture or silent poem".

Buddhist Treasures Revealed to the Public

By Kang Miao

Buddhist treasures discovered in The White Stupa at Miaoying Temple were shown to the public from July 24 through August 2, attracting many people to visit and pray before the Buddhist

According to Meng Jun, an expert in the temple, all the treasures were put onto the top of the stupa by the Emperor Qianlong in 1753, when he rebuilt the Miaoying Temple. All the treasures were discovered during the repair of the stupa after the 1976 earthquake.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Temple was built under the order of Kublai Khan, the founder of the Yuan Dynasty, and designed by Arniger, a well-known Nepalese architect in 1271. As the biggest and oldest Tibet-style Buddhist stupa ever discovered in China, the White Stupa is now preserved as important relics of the great Capital of the Yuan Dynasty (Beijing) and as a symbol of the well-established and longstanding friendship between China and Nepal.

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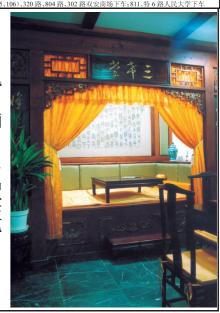
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E-mail: zhangxiaoxia@ynet.com

EDITOR: ZHANG XIAOXIA DESIGNER: LI SHI

We were going to call on our ancestors in remote antiquity, whose spirit has been waiting 5,000 years for our ar-

The soft tip of a tongue gently licked the wound. Oh! There was a stinging pain. Bao Wa opened his eyes but it was dark and he could not see the face nestling up against him. It was a woman. The breath out of her mouth and nose was gentle and humid. Bao Wa realized that it was a mountain cave with a fire beside him and he was lying on a layer of soft grass.... It seemed that he had not seen the woman in front of him before.

The woman cried in surprise and drew back her body when she saw Bao Wa opening his eyes. Then, she stretched out her hand smilingly, pushed aside the locks of hair over his forehead with her fine, slim fingers, and combed back his sticky, tangled hair. Bao Wa felt very itchy. He smelt like the drug solomenseal but he did not know where the smell came from. The tongue of the fire was flickering. Bao Wa raised his hand to scratch

"Don't move!" The woman scratched Bao Wa's head. "Click," her fingernails crushed a louse. "There are more," said the woman, "I've told you not to move." Her nimble hands moved around, and the sound of clicks came from between her fingernails. "I can see no more. Wait till daybreak and I'll catch all of them for you. Ah?

Her soft voice made Bao Wa forgot the pain. His face, chest, and arms were covered with the paste of wuhecao, a grass whose leaves can stop bleeding. Bao Wa felt dizzy and weak, seeming as if he was in a dream. The tongue of flame was darting. What was the name of the woman? All the attractive women who could give birth to babies in Jiuzu Village of Sanwan were on the lips of men. Oh, he realized that he was in the Wandu Valley in Dawa Village. She must be a girl from the Dawa tribe

Judging from the pattern on her chest, she had just had the grown-up ceremony, but the purplish-red nipples of her breasts had not split yet. Was she the one with large eyes and black eyeballs? Hong Mao said there was a woman with a big bottom and black

eyes and that the hole of her "flower" (private part) was different from that of other women. It seemed that her bright, beautiful eyes would take you in when she looked at you. No wonder people called her Heidianzi (Black Eyes). She should be so called because of her pair of bright eyes.

breasts that

Walking Marriage

by Zhao Yugong



Photo by Huang Xuyu

protruded like two short ox horns had two firm nipples like two red beans. The firewood cracked in the fire, and her body was warm and gave off an odor similar that of the drug solomenseal. As she moved her body, her two breasts shone red before the fire and swaved with her body.

"You, from Yuzhai Village and Bao Wa of Dayumu?

"Oh, yeah?" Bao Wa was surprised and sat a bit up.

"Look at me" said the woman with blinking eyes. "Look at my eyeholes. Don't you know who I am?

Bao Wa felt dizzy, hot, and dry. Once again, he noticed the refreshing, gladdening smell of the drug solomenseal. He swept his eyes over the place and found that there spread under him were leaves of the wormwood, sweet grass, and other grass. He looked and smelt around and wondered why there was a smell of the drug solomenseal in the mountain cave.

Bao Wa was a young man who was in the mountains hunting game all the year round. He had a broad nose and large nostrils that could distinguish the different smells of beasts, insects, flowers, and other plants. Whenever he walked in the shade of cliffs or past a marshland

or a spring grown with the drug solomenseal, he liked to inhale the smell of the plant and felt excited, hot, and dry from head to

The woman produced a handful of Chinese pine nuts. "Come and have some, choose the better ones." she said, "I was chased by a mottled leopard when I was picking up soy beans by a cliff. I fell into a gully and lost a basket of the pink Chinaroot green brier I had collected. It's impossible for us to return home today. Come on and take the nuts. Aren't you hungry? I've nothing else to appease your hunger...

As Bao Wa came closer to the woman, he found it was her body that sent

forth the smell of the drug solomensea. He had a deep breath and sat still there. Wow, her hair, her lips, her nostrils, her skin and flesh! Especially the "flower" inside her straight leather pants. which was wet and had a mixed smell of sweat and urine. It enveloped Bao Wa like a floating mass of humid fog.

Bao Wa became void, light, hot, and dry. In his daze, he outstretched his hands and his lips pressed tightly against her chest between the two breasts. The woman was aroused. Bao Wa pressed one of her breasts with his hands, and a stream of hot drug solomenseal juice spurted into his lips.

In the light of the darting flames, Heiyaizi widely opened her legs while Bao Wa was yelping involuntarily. Bao Wa was a strong man who had sexual intercourse with quite a few women. But he was trembling like a virgin boy who saw the "flower" tucked away among the pubes of a woman for the first time. Her rich "lips" that looked like two pieces of clam flesh were scarlet red, shining, and eye inviting like a darting flame and made men burn in the

Her "lips" were as red as.... Bao Wa was so heated that he forgot what he saw when chasing a tiger in the mounger fur hanging on top of the bram-

bles. When he picked the fur and looked at it against the sun, the color became darker from root to tip. The tip of the fur was as red as blood and the burning sun. The "flower" of Heidianzi was scarlet red. One glance at it was enough to make one feel burning in the heart.

Bao Wa opened his mouth. His eyes were burnt by the scarlet red "lips." The "flower" was vivid, beautiful, and moist and sent forth a fresh, offensive odor of solomenseal blossoms. He was in a whirl and then thrust his cock in.

"Oh, oh," the woman was trembling and gasping with excitement. Deep inside her warm, slippery hole, there was something that sucked his cock like the mouth of a common carp, soft but strong. All of a sudden, the fish loosened its mouth. Bao Wa felt as if he was falling from the top of clouds, and before he could find anything to get hold of, the mouth held the cock tightly again as if it was making fun of him. It sucked and unsucked alternatively. Bao Wa felt like being soaked in hot water, and now his body floated on the surface of the water and then it sank to the bottom. The woman was gasping hard, and her body that was tossing around under him was smooth and slippery. It was obvious that he was holding her tightly in his arms, but he could not go further inside her. The mouth of the fish played tricks with him by dodging him now and then. He opened widely his mouth and breathed hard. He was burning hot all over. He pushed forward harder repeatedly, trying to touch the fish's depths in her "flower."



At present, few publishers are willing to publish books except for those about women and sex, mafia secrets or celebrities' private lives, or popular and new-fashioned novels full of senseless talks by garrulous philistines. As time passes, fewer writers want to write. The writers' motive for writing is being tamed by the market.

Although our life remains honest, serious and even heavy, lots of frivolous works like "short acts" have appeared. However, the writers of Walking Marriage, the heavy book published by the Writers Publishing House, have escaped the hubbub of reality and lead me to the lives of our ancestors 5,000 years ago. The writing, not out of imagination, is based on the writers' comprehensive study, understanding and mastery of archeology, anthropology, ethnology, folklore and mythology. For the first time, they exhibit in an omni-directional way the fantastic and truthful primitive culture of the Chinese nation.

> Lots of stories beyond our imagination have occurred on this piece

Our male ancestors were tall and sturdy, skilful and intelligent, broad minded and valiant. Our female ancestors were extraordinary, kind, faithful, firm and bright. The truthful flesh-andblood reflection of history by the two novels has breached the rigid and lifeless description in textbooks. The several hundreds of thousands of Chinese living on the banks of the Yellow River have produced billions of descendents now spreading all over the world. The two novels reveal and contain the motives, vigor and charm of Chinese culture. They let us feel the untold complexity of the lives of humans in this chaotic and boundless universe, and ponder over the limited life span of individuals against the permanent development of the human race.

Mankind does absorb nourishment, develops and expands through reading. In the 5,000-year space-time, we breathe the air of normal human feelings that we haven't seen for a long time in many works.

All this, perhaps, is my special feeling that gushes out only when I read novels. The covers of the books are labeled "Chinese anthropology of ancient times", indicating that the books are oriented to readers who are interested in Chinese culture and have relatively high taste and comprehension. In the times of digital TV, novels continue to show their special spiritual penetration that the former can never

It makes human souls involuntarily tremble in darkness and burst out sparks in collision. It lets us unconsciously feel the vanishing human sense and holiness.

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Postscript

by Zhao Yugong

The content of the novel is related to many men and women. During the 1980s, I published stories of every length. In 1988, I concluded courses at the Lu Xun Academy of Literature and the First Writers' Training Course of Beijing University. I got acquainted with quite a few editors but I was not in the mood to write any novels. It seemed that everything had changed after humankind entered the television and computer era; people could do nothing but ponder over the road they traversed, make

new choices, and be on guard against their stupidity in the high tide of the rapidly transitional period in the Chinese his-

Whoever can lead a life without things in suspense, stories, or private matters? Whoever leads a life without anything, including desires, in his or her inner world? What qualification and artistic charm does a writer have that make the reader buy and read his or her works? Do the writer's works offer new information on or contribute anything new to human culture? Are his or her works creations instead of repetitions?

It was by pure chance that whatever is in my mind. I composed the book. First, I

生活百科

neither have a great name nor engaged in frequent social activities. I had time to sit down and write. Second, I had no money. No matter whether I was willing or not, I had to refuse enjoying myself in restaurants and other kinds of entertainment like many people nowadays in society. I had to stand up to temptation. So I had energy. Third, My wife, our daughter, my parents, and my sister did not force me to earn money. They endured hard- ancient China, entitled The ship in life and allowed me to do what I liked to do. Fourth, I am in good health, and it seems that I have a better memory than when I was young. I can write

My gratitude also goes to the

▶ Duplicate

spirit of our ancestors that often communicated with my heart. Thank goodness, I could transform the ideas coming up in my dream into pieces of writing. If readers will accept the two volumes I have composed, I will probably continue to finish the third volume of the novel about Yao, Yu, and Shun, the three legendary monarchs in Dynastic Era. In this way, there will be books that give a detailed description of the life of the ancestors of the Chinese nation before the Xia Dynasty (c. 21st-c. 16th century B. C.).

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By Hu Xiaoli In "Negative", a musician plays the piano thinking of the imaginary lover in her

Love and art stand eternally as the theme of drama and literature even in the works of James Joyce. A musical drama "Negative", related to artists' love stories, is being staged at the Mini Theatre of the People's Art Theatre from July 23 to August 18.

> mind; a punk-rocker pretends to be cavalier to everything but doesn't dare confess to the girl he likes; and a street performer is brave enough to act on the street but afraid to pursue his own love. Their tribulations are accompanied by improvised music and dance. These desperate perfectionists in the story don't have the courage to pursue their own love, although they still believe love is the most

> > beautiful and final goal of life. "I can feel their loss and the deep desire to love by the actors' expressive body language and music, although I don't understand the language very much," Sarah Oppenheim, a French member of the audience said after the drama.

> > > Yu Jiangying, the writer, musician and main actress of the drama had a sudden impulse on her way home to write a story about the artists around her. As a real freelance musician, Yu has given a self portrait of herself and other artists. "What I want to convey is a kind of purity, pure love, pure loss," Yu said after she came off stage, "which is just as real and pure as the

Marriage of Jade from **East and West**

By Hu Xiaoli

An innovative show of western musical comedy and Chinese Acrobatic with the title "Bi", presented by the "Comedians" and "Chinese Qiqihar Circus", was on stage at the Century Theatre from July 26 to 28. The artistic director of the show, Joan Font i Pujol, was the director of the closing ceremony of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic

"Bi", meaning jade in classical Chinese, relates to a humorous love story between a Spanish classical dancer and a Chinese worker. During the show, Chinese and Mediterranean dragons wove across the stage in a snarl of teeth and scales. Giants and large heads from East and West were dancing on the same stage.

Cao Xiaoning, the executive chairman of China Heaven Creation International Performing Arts Co., Ltd. expressed his opinion after the show, "It is not easy for the director to bring all these factors harmoniously into one show as the language and culture differences are still the biggest obstacles in all these kind of performances." The show, as a whole, was well received by the audience as a result of the "Comediants" skillful manipulation of stage props and technical experience in lighting, sound and construction. But, for a Chinese audience, some aspects of the performance provoked delayed reactions perhaps due to the cultural differences.

Last year, Zhang Yimou, the

well-known Chinese film director, brought the Italian opera "Turandot" to a Chinese stage. A traditional Chinese drama was also adapted as a Western ballet two months ago. Such cultural combinations seem to have become a fashion. At the same time, however, some theater-goers seemed to be confused by these mixed performances. Is this meeting of cultures an artistic trend, or just a commercial fashion?

This experiment will surely provide fertile ground for creators in the performing arts. But this fusion should become a real art trend rather than just a commercial fashion to please the eye. Just as Joan Font said, it will still be a hard process to polish the most precious jade made by Eastern and Western artists.

Photo by Cui Jun

Seeing Art of **Sounds**

By Zhang Jing



Some sounds, like an engine in a car, allow a work of art to move, says Li Zhenhua. Li sponsored an exhibition of sounds shown at the Jieziyuan art gallery, in the northwest of Beijing, from July 14 to 21.

14 artists, utilized sounds as the major component of each work. In the exhibiting area of 2,000 square meters, 18 sound works were heard, in the forms of behavior art, apparatus art and music. Examples of sounds heard were a speech from a tour guide, boiling water, and a band playing.

Shi Qing, one of the 14 artists, put several fake human

heads on the sand in the exhibition. Blood from the ceiling dripped onto the lips. When people walked past the heads, the lights turned off and sounds like "ouch" or giggling could be

"Though we can't excel in hitech right now as western artists do, we are doing research to catch up," said Li. In terms of multimedia art and sound art in China, Li said, "We are the best." The separation of sounds from vision, or their remix into a whole new setting, makes possible a different perspective about this visible and always taken for granted world.

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EDITOR: JIAN RONG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

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Sew Exciting-Cross Stitch



By Jiao Pei

you want to try something that will test your skill, dexterity and ability to

concentrate? Photo by Chen Shuyi What about a bit of classic European cross-stitching! A small recently opened shop in Ganjiakou, called Beauty In Life, is attracting a growing number of cross-stich enthusiasts.

The cross-stitch specialized by

this shop is branded DMC, a famous French brand. Cross-stitching originated in France and is still popular in Europe today. It's not at all difficult to master, unlike traditional Chinese embroidery.

The shop features various examples of cross-stitch work hanging on the walls. You can use the finished articles to make cushions, handbags, clothes, tablecloths and decorations. The shop offers over 400 threads, which are all imported from Europe, and are 100% cotton. One roll costs 2.95 yuan. How much you need to spend to complete a piece depends on the quantity of thread that you use. But generally, to finish a small pattern, you must pay about 100 yuan.

The works decorating Beauty In Life are not for sale. The shop sells only cloth, thread, needles and patterns, and it is up to you to learn how to stitch. Beginners will no doubt meet some serious obstacles, but when you eventually overcome them, the satisfaction will be doubly rewarding.

Add: south side of Ganjiakou (甘家□) Department Store, Sanlihe Lu (三里河路), Haidian District. Open:10am - 8pm. Tel:

Moving Wind, Moving Heart

By Jiao Pei

Around the south gate of Chaoyang Park, is a cluster of popular bars. One of these, Moving Wind & Moving Heart is an attractive place with some special features.

Situated on the east side of the road in front of Gunshi, the 2-storey Moving Wind & Moving Heart features a big windmill outside the second floor. If the wind is blowing, you might see it turning, just like a real Dutch windmill

The first floor has a modern style, and there are lots of interesting decorations that absorb the customers'



attention. The owner of the bar says the first floor is intended to evoke the "Now" of your life. When you sit there, it's difficult to imagine that upstairs is an antique "courtyard" reminiscent of old Beijing. He says the courtyard stirs memories of "Old Beijing", giving a taste of the "Past"

of your life. Actually, the second floor is not really open to the public, it's just for the owner and his friends, but you are welcome to go upstairs to

Moving Wind & Moving Heart has its own special cocktail, named after the bar, and a live band performs every night from 9pm to midnight. When you have experienced your "now" on the 1st floor, go up to the 2nd floor to taste your "past". Then when you open the door to leave, you will face your "future". Add:east side of Gunshi(滚石), south gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang **Open**: 7:30pm-1:30am. District.

Humble Family Restaurant Serves Exquisite Imperial Cuisine

By Li Dan

Located in a narrow hutong, with crumbling stone and plaster walls, the Family Li's Dishes Restaurant is no ordinary local-style eatery. The owner of the restaurant is a retired 81-year-old professor, Li Shanlin, who speaks fluent English. For the first ten or so years following its establishment, the restaurant had only one simple white-clothed table and seated a maximum of 10 people. However a year ago, Professor Li added a few more tables, bringing the capacity up to around 30.

Professor Li was born into a Manchurian family, whose ancestors were designated "Zheng Bai Qi" (Normal White Banner <u>∓</u> 白旗) Manchurians. His grandfather, Li Zijia was the Commander in Chief of the Palace Guards, in charge of the security of the royal fam-

ily in the Imperial Court. He was also responsible for organizing all royal banquets and overseeing the recipes for Empress Dowager Cixi. With such a family background, Li naturally showed a great interest in the art of cooking since childhood. His favorite style is the Imperial Court Cuisine, which today, is almost a lost art in China. His passion for cooking was passed on to his three daughters and his son, and when his second daughter won the National Day Banquet Cooking Competition in 1984, he decided to open this restaurant. It quickly achieved great success and has won a reputation for excellence both at home and abroad.

The Family Li's dishes are a combination of Imperial court cuisine and traditional Beijing cuisine, with emphasis on the careful selection of the freshest materials. The restaurant is only open for dinner, and for just one sitting, but for this one meal, the whole family begins preparations from early morning. A wide selection of vegetarian dishes are offered, such as mustard root and carrot; celery steamed and perfumed with nutty sesame oil and Chinese rice vinegar; and tremulous cubes of mung bean curd deep-fried and scented with soybean and garlic. His Beijing lobster, sweet and sour Beijing cabbage and baked Beijing duck are also unique among Beijing's traditional cuisine. Professor Li is a great conversationalist, and will be very happy to talk with you about traditional Chinese cuisine culture and the daily life of the Manchurian court.

Add: 11 Yang Fang Hutong (羊房胡同), Deneidajie (德内大街), Xicheng District; subway to Jishuitan (积水潭) and pedicab to 11 Yangfang Hutong. **Open:** from 6pm daily.

Price: A choice of 6 set menus of 20+ dishes, ranging from 200 to 300 yuan per person.

Tel: 66180107, reservations are a must.

SHADOW PUPPETS. A FORGOTTEN STORY



pletely faded away, some almost 100 years old, and others brightly painted by the owner himself. For more than 1,000 years, shadow plays were one of China's most popular traditional art forms. They began as a form of entertainment for peasants in the countryside and remote mountain regions. The shadow play troupes traveled from village to village, giving performances. The puppets, called Piying or "skin silhouettes", are made of ox or donkey skin. There are four main types of characters, Sheng (the male lead), Dan (the female lead), Jing (the painted-faced), and Chou (the clown) used to tell many stories; myths and legends, historical events, folktales, and incidents from everyday life. The puppeteers would set up a large white screen for performances, which concealed from the audience all the secrets of the art form. Each puppeteer was not only responsible for

old and faded, some new and brightly colored, tell

a story of an almost forgotten theatre form. On closer in-

spection of one such stall, I found puppet figures almost com-

ing and selling old puppets, Wu also makes new ones. The newly made shadow puppets sell for between 20-100 yuan, while the antique ones cost considerably more, depending on their age and size. However, they are generally less expensive than those sold in Liulichang (琉璃厂) and other antique shops, because the rental fee for a stand at Panjiayuan Flea market is relatively low. If you want to watch a shadow play, you may contact Wu, for he's busy organizing and providing performances during the week and only sets up this stand on weekends. Add: No. 3069 and 2004, Beijing Panjiayuan

Photo by Chen Shuyi

delivering the dialogue and songs of several characters, but also for manipulating the puppets themselves, while the musicians would sit to the left side holding their gongs, drums and stringed instruments. Wu Qing, the owner of the stall, says he has been collecting these shadow puppets for many years, often traveling to remote areas. Many of them can be traced to the late Qing Dynasty. Nowadays, shadow plays are rarely seen, and such artifacts represent an important part of the country's cultural heritage. As well as collect-Flea Market. Open: Saturday and Sunday, 9am-4: 30pm **Tel**: 13910808249, Wu Qing (无情).

Business Service

Photo by Chen Shuyi



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EDITOR: JIAN RONG DESIGNER: PANG LE

Equal Treatment for Foreigners

Shanghai has removed the distinction between foreigner-approved and non foreigner-approved housing.

fication of Real Estate.

By Wang Dandan

On August 1st, the distinction between foreigner-approved and non foreigner-approved housing has been removed in Shanghai. The changes are part of the process of unifying land use rights in terms of commerce, travel, entertainment, finance, service industries and

Real Estate Rights

commodity apartments. The Shanghai Municipal Government announced the changes at a press conference on August 1st.

The main changes regarding real estate, which are aimed at facilitating the better develop of the real estate industries are as follows:

Both domestic and foreign organizations and individuals may buy or rent apartments.

The agency should assist the customer to

buy the house, check relevant certificates,

help with loans etc. If you sell a house with

the help of an agency, you have to pay 2.5%

(if the total sum is no more than 5 million

a service comparison among different agen-

checking their Operating License and Quali-

before you sign with them. If you think it is

fication Certification of Real Estate.

unfair, negotiate with them.

can lead to problems.

Before you enter into a contract, make

Ensure that the agency is above board by

Examine carefully the "Agency Contract"

Do not deal with individual brokers. Some

First, the apartment information belongs

Furthermore, brokers who accept such

Finally there are some brokers who pose

customers make private deals with the bro-

ker to avoid paying agency charges. This is

to the agency, not an individual broker, and

private business are clearly unscrupulous

and may ask for more money after you move

as apartment owners and then disappear af-

ter you have paid them the money.

you might be prosecuted by the agency.

yuan) out of the selling price to the agency.

Purchasing and selling contract and procedures have been unified. Procedure fees have been fixed at a set rate. Apartments with a selling price of 300,000 yuan or above will be charged 500 yuan, those below 300,000 will be charged 250 yuan.

All dealings regarding city apartments will be registered for convenient inquiries.

Why are you staying at this hotel?

Target: Prime Hotel When: 19:00-21:00, Thursday, July 26th **Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan**

Guest

I think it is a good hotel. People here are very friendly and they have nice rooms. Breakfast and coffee is the same as I've had in other hotels of a similar standard. The bathroom is nice and big. However, the bench in front of the mirror is dotted with blue marks. And the shower in the bathroom is leaking sometimes. Also, there is no

bathrobe in my room. **Andreas Schlieker, Germany**

The location is convenient and is close to Wangfujing (shopping district) and Tian'anmen. The rooms are bigger than

served was not limited to Cantonese food.

have Cantonese food. It is a bit boring.

Teddy Wang, Hong Kong

The reason for me to live here is simple. I am an engineer of metallurgy and my local friend told me that one of my counterparts in the National Metallurgy Bureau was helped a lot by the hotel. She broke her leg and asked the concierge if they could help her with calling a taxi. She did not live in the hotel but her office was nearby. The concierges kept calling taxis for her for two months. I know I am going to be well served when they offer such good

Maggie Theresa, Africa

I prefer to live in large rooms and so far as I know, their rooms are the biggest in Beijing. Besides, as I am a frequent and helps them as much as possible. However, the traffic is not so good, I have to go around the block before arriving at the

guests and do not reflect the opinion of Beijing Today.)

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?

Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525



other hotels in Beijing, probably the biggest and, really OK for living. It would be better if the food

> I have to stay here for 3 or 4 days and I can only

service to non-guests.

guest, I can contact the guest relations office directly if there are any problems. The team specializes in treating such guests main gate. Hope this can be improved.

(The above comments were made by randomly chosen



Picture by Li Yue

Generally speaking, most real estate agencies in Beijing operate within the law. However consumers should know their rights and how to protect them, in the event that they

What are they and what

do you do when they

are infringed?

By Wang Dandan

encounter an unscrupulous operator. A real estate agency, or "Real Estate Broker Company", should have a registered capital of at least 300,000 yuan and four qualified

real estate brokers. It should also possess an Operating License and a Qualification Certi-



When reserving an apartment, you have to check yourself if the stated owner is the real owner of the property, i.e. check their ID card, registered residential card and house property certificate. This should be the agency's responsibility, however, since not all of them are qualified, it is better to check your-

If you do find that your rights have been infringed, you should immediately inform the relevant department by calling 62241234, Beijing Consumer's Association, or 68359315, China Consumer's Association to help you solve the problems.

E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com

Friday August 3



Modern Music Play: Photographic Plate A love story about young artists pursuing the perfect love. But the reality does not match their dreams. In society, they realize love is so precious. Where: People's Art Mini Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: Now-August 18, 7:30pm. Admission: 60 yuan. Tel: 65250123

Cheers for Beijing The

Armenia Friendship Danc-

ing Troupe celebrates Bei-

jing's success in winning the

 $2008\,Olympics. Armenia\,has$

more than 3,000 years of his-

tory and culture. You won't

believe it if you don't see it

for yourself. Where: Tianqiao

Theater, 23 Beiwei Lu (北

纬路), Xuanwu District, bus

110, 54, 106 to Tianqiao (天

桥). When: Aug. 4, 7:30pm.

Tickets: 120, 80, 60, 40, 20

Large Story-Play: For

Tomorrow. Nowadays, juve-

nile delinquency is becoming

worse. This play teaches kids

how to protect themselves, and

makes parents know how to

educate their children by lots of

examples. Where: China Chil-

dren's Art Theater (中国儿

童剧场), 64 Dong'an Men Da-

jie, Dongcheng District. When:

August 5-20, 7:15pm. Admis-

sion: 20 yuan. Tel: 65241831.

Chang'an Theater This

is the second time for Wang

Peiyu (王珮瑜), graduate of

Shanghai Normal Univer-

sity, to perform at the

Chang'an Theater. Perfor-

mance includes excerpts

from Orphan Zhao and

others. Where: Chang'an

Theater, 7 Jianguomennei

Dajie, Dongcheng District,

bus 1, 4, 57 to Beijing

Zhankou or subway to Ji-

anguomen. When: Aug. 5-7,

7:30pm. Ticket: 30, 60, 100,

180 yuan. Tel: 65101310

Beijing Opera at

yuan. Tel: 63032315

Performances

Cloudy to overcast, Max: 32C. Min: 23C.

Saturday August 4



Clear to cloudy Max: 33C. Min: 22C.

Sunday August 5



Clear to cloudy Max: 32C. Min: 23C.

Monday August 6



Cloudy to overcast, scattered showers Max: 31C. Min: 23C.

Tuesday August 7





Cloudy to overcast, showers Max: 29C. Min: 20C.

Wednesday August 8



Clear to cloudy Max: 31C. Min: 23C.

Thursday August 9



Beijing Opera at Huguang Huiguan Nao Long Gong, Gu Cheng Hui, Dang Ma, Dao Ku Yin, Xiao Shang He. Where: Huguang Huiguan, 2 Hufangqiao Lu, Xuanwu District. When: August 3-10, 7:30pm. Admission: 100-180 yuan, 200, box 380 yuan. Tel: 63518284, 63529134.

Saturday, August 4th

Sunday, August 5th

suspended particles.

Little influence on air quality.

Not quite easy for dispersion of

Cloudy to overcast, showers Max: 33C. Min: 21C.

District. Tel: 64324863 Chinese movie with English Subtitles. Director: Ji Jian, 2001, Starring: Yan Danchen, Zhang Chao Through the eyes of this young

Restaurants & Bars

New Zealand Food Festival

There is short plate steak in red wine sauce, lamb rump steak, pan-fried lamb sliced in rosemary sauce served with fried rice and vegetables. New Zealand Food Festival Where: Rainforest Cafe, 1 -1F Oriental Plaza. When: now - August 31 Tel: 85186851

Hong Kong Food Festival This



recommended by Hoivat Heen to celebrate the 4th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to motherland. Various delicious Hong Kong cuisine and pastry will accompany you this memorable summer. 90 yuan and 105 yuan /per person respectively in lunch and night dinner and 15% service fee.

Where: 8 Jiangtailu(蒋台路), Chaoyang District, Hoiyat Heen in Harbour Plaza Hotel Time: now-July 31 Tel: 64362288 **Dine For Free** at the Sheraton **Hotel** If 4 people

come here, one of them eats for free. Applies to curry night at the Silk Road Trattoria, Saturday seafood market at Yuen Tai Restaurant, and the business lunch at the Bistro and Fortune. Where: Sheraton Hotel, Dongsanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District. For more imformation, call 65905566-2146

River Bar Wild Kids bring us the music featuring North-west songs of China. When: 9:30pm-midnight. Where: Sanlitun Bar Street, beside Nashville Bar. Admission: 20 yuan. Tel: 65944714

Q Bar Monday: Wild Kid Band; Tuesday: Second Hand Rose; Wednesday: Bu Yi Ding; Thursday: FM3; Friday: Dou Wei's Yi band; Saturday: Yang Le & Cao Jun band; Sunday: Mipade Band. Where: west gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District. Admission: free. Tel: 65915050.

Music

Reminisce about Old **Times and Absent Friends** Dozz, DJ from Europe will bring you into a sentimental and romantic world with his House and Trance style music from the 1980s. Where: Club Orange, 2, alley 10, Xingfuyicun (幸福一村), Chaoyang District, bus 120, 110 to Xingfusancun Time: Aug.3 Tel: 64157413

Stairway to Music 2001-Music Camp: The Charm of the Cello. German Cellist F. Gauwerky. Program: Cello Sonata (Beethoven). Sonata in D (Mendelssohn) When: Friday, August 3, 7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall.

The Story of Music: ${\rm My}$ Collections of CDs. When: Saturday, August 4, 7:30am. Admission: 10 yuan. Beijing Opera with Commentary Beijing Opera House will introduce some basic knowledge of Beijing Opera. When: Saturday, August 4, 2pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. Tel: 65598285

Scream Website Opening Ceremony. Where: Get Lucky Bar. When: August 4, 9pm. Tel: 64299109

Drummer's Festival Thunder & Wind Percussion Band from the Central Conservatory of Music Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. When: August 5, 7:45pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Tel: 68485462 **Cartoon & Movie Music Concert** Performed by China Opera and Dance Orchestra, including music from the Lion King, Snow White, Mulan, etc. Where: Beijing Concert Hall. When: Sunday, August 5 7:30pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan, box 200 yuan.

Pipa Recital by Wu Yuxia When: Monday, August 6, 7:30pm. Admission: 10 - 60 yuan. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. Tel: 65598285



Jazz Performance by Annular Eclipse from the Central Conservatory of Music. Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. When: August 8, 7:45pm. Admission: 10-60 yuan. Tel: 68485462

Accordion Recital by Yang Yi. When: Thursday, August 9, 7:30pm. Admission: 50 -180 yuan, box 200. Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Liubukou, west Chang'an Avenue. Bus 7 to Liubukou. Tel: 66057006

Movies



Rohmer Rohmer is one of the famous directors of the French New Wave. On Saturday Box Cafe will screen The Collector (女收藏家)(1976) and My Night with Maud (我与莫德的 一夜)(1969). Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Masion, Haidian District. When: Saturday, August 4, 7pm. Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 62791280

Exhibitions

Beijing Leg of Science Alive 2001 Designed for those aged from 6-16 with interactive installations based on this year's themes: light and sound. And science dramas organized by the British Council and the Friends of Nature environmental organization. There will be demonstration lectures titled "The Focus of Life" from 13-17 August. "Discovering DNA" will be run from 6-10 August. For more information, contact Tracy Driscoll on 65906903 ext.248 or Helen Cheng on 65906903 ext. 290. Where: China Science and Technology Museum. When: August 5-31.

10th Anniversary of **Beijing International Art Palace** 53 oil paintings by some well-known artists. The exhibition marks the 10th Anniversary of the Beijing International Art Palace, founded in 1991. Since its opening, the gallery has hosted over 300 exhibitions. Where: 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: Now-August 48, 9am-6pm. Tel: 65125063

Exhibition of Improving Beauty and Hair When: August 2-4. Where: China International Exhibition Center, 6 Beisanhuan Donglu, Chaoyang District. When: August 9-12. Tel: 64664433, 64601800 Website: www.ciec-expo.com

International Big Cities' Environment and New Technology Exhibition Where: Beijing International Exhibition Center, east third ring road, Chaoyang District, beside Carrefor, bus 300 to Guozhan When: Aug.9-12. Tel: 84602070

Silk Clothes Exhibition Featuring hundreds of the lat-



est domestic silk products at low prices. Where: Exhibition Hall of the Nationality Cultural Palace, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District, bus 1,4,10 to Mignzugong (民族宮) When: now- Aug.8, 9am-4pm Tel: 66024433

Crimes and Misdemean-

ors Director: Woody Allen, 1989, 105 minutes. Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, Haidian District. When: Tuesday, Thursday, August 7, 9, 7pm. Admission: free with one drink purchase. Tel: 62521746

Sports & Activities

Nike Street Basketball 3 vs 3 Where: Dongdan Tiyuguan, Dongdan, Dongcheng District. When: August 9, 10. Tel: 65129377

Celebrate the First Outdoor Full Moon Party in China Magic Garden & Club Vogue welcomes you to a Time Trip in an Antique Ming Dynasty Street in Nangong. Djs: Maero Funky (House) from Magic Garden, Slab (Techno) from EleKtrobeat, Titeuf Goa (Trance) from Magic Garden, Genie Goa (Trance) from Vogue Club. Guest DJ and Special Guest: Zeta (Techno) from Bullets Factory, Paris. Huge sound system & fabulous light show. Fresh Fruit Bar, BBQ. Surprises for people dressed in Ming style. Where: Bei Pu Tuo Movie Studios, Beijing Daxing Nangong. From Jing Tang Expressway, take Da Yang Fang at Jiu Gong Exit, at the 3rd traffic light turn to the left (South) and straight on for 7 km. Free shuttle bus from Neo Lounge, starting from 9pm to 0am. Come back from 3am, taxis available on site. When: Friday, August 3. Tickets: - 70 RMB in Advance @: Club Vogue (88 Gongtidonglu), Neo Lounge (99 Xingfucun Zhonglu), Public Space (56 Sanlitun North Bar Street), Trendsetters (Chaoyang Park, South Gate), 100 yuan at the door. Phone: 13910847817 or Email: magic_garden_beijing@hotmail.com

Old Beijing Summer Beer Festival. Performances, snacks and beer at Tuanjiehu park. Where: Tuanjiehu Park, East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. When: now -August 8, 4pm-9pm. Tel: 85978390.



Sea of Lotus 4,000 pots and more than 100 types of lotus will be on show in Ditan ark, including 2-meter Lotus vide ling, the rare American Lo-

Interna-

Exhibition of

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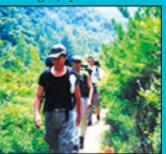
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tus, and a kind of lotus that has more than 2000 petals. Where: Ditan Park, Andingmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District, bus 18, 104, 108 or subway to Andingmen. When: now-Aug.20, 6am-9pm



Exhibition Hall, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District, bus 904, 332, 808, 716 to Beijing Zoo. When: Aug.8-12 Tel: 68316677

Beer Festival in Golden Street Nights in Wangfujing Street are immersed in a sea of music and beer. Come along and enjoy yourself! Where: Wangfujing Street, bus 1, 4, 57, 52, 10 or bus to Dongdan or subway to Wangfujing Time: now- Aug. 5, 7pm 1.



Walking meng Mountains Yunmeng Moutain is 80 kilometers north of Beijing. The precipitous and oeautiful scenery makes it a popular hiking

stination. Where to register: 28 Guandongdian, Chaoyang District, Gongxiao (宮霄) Manshion, Rm.720, Feilongzaitian (飞龙在天) Club, bus 28,109, 112,420 to Guandongdian Time: now-mid of Aug. Ticket: 100 yuan Phone: 65017636.

Wanna Dance? DJs Gamo from Africa, Herbie from England and Qian Xu from China will cooperate to play you the hottest music and make you crazy about hip-hop. Where: Vic's Club, east side of north gate of Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District. Time: Aug 3 Tel:

The 6th World Cup Robot Football Match. Participates include China, Japan, South Korea, and Canada. Where: 5 Xisanhuan Beilu, Xicheng District, China Science and Technology Museum (中国科技馆), bus 300, 302, 367 to Kejiguan. Time: now- Aug 5 Tel: 62371177

Bamboo Cultural Festival Come on to participate the 8th Zizhuyuan Bamboo Cultural Festival. You can not only enjoy bamboo views and learn to make bamboo arts and crafts, but also appreciate artists' demonstration of traditional Chinese painting about bamboo then and there. Zizhuyuan is one of the biggest bamboo parks in China. Where: 35 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Zizhuyuan Park (紫竹院), Haidian District Time: now-August 31, 6am-8pm Tel: 68420055.

Spend the Summer at Yanqihu Lake 雁栖湖) Yanqihu Lake is a place full of scenic beauty in Beijing outskirts. It is as beautiful as a painting. Enjoying dancing and singing performances beside it under the curtain of night will be surely a different feeling for you to spend this hot summer. Where: the Cultural Plaza at Yanqihu (怀柔县) County. Time: July 27-August 25, Friday and Saturday night, 7:30pm-10pm.

Ladies' Clothes Market Where: Xiaoyun Lu(霄云路), Chaoyang District.

Next Week

We are glad to receive your feedback. You can email us at bitodavinfo@ ynet.com or call 65902522 By Jiao Pei , Li Dan

Shunza Concert (顺子) When: August 10. Where: 1950 Bar, 44 Liangmaqiao Lu, east of the 21st Century Hotel. Tel: 64611950 Where: Ao Jigao Bar (做基高), opposite Gao Lan Mansion, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

Movie: Growing Season (花季雨季)

director, we get to see what it is like to be a teenager in China today. Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmagiao Lu (1km east of the Kempinski Hotel) When: Friday, August 10, 8pm. Admission: 50 yuan. Tel: 64615318/9

E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com

EDITOR: JIAN RONG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Now it is a good time to think about escaping from the hot Beijing summer and to the sea for a few days. Huludao in Liaoning Province is an ideal beach getaway, with clean sand, clear water, great seafood and lots to do

and see.



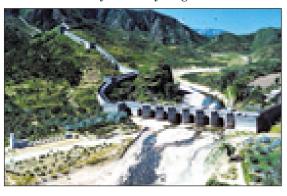
no surf, but plenty of sun, sand and seafood

by Jiang Zhong

uludao (Calabash Island), east of Shanhaiguan Pass, near where the Great Wall runs into the sea, is one of the newest summer resorts in China. There are many scenic spots in the region, including the Jieshi holiday tour area, Jiumenkou Pass of the Great Wall, Shengshui Temple and Xingcheng.

Jieshi (褐名) holiday tour area

Clear seawater and soft sand are the characteristics of this coastal resort. The ruins of Jieshi Palace, an imperial beach resort built during the Qin Dynasty, are the historical wonder that the area gets its name from. The name of the palace comes from a high rock standing by the sea. It was said that the rock resembled a rooster when viewed from the east, and a young wife accompanied by her two young children from the west.



Jiumenkou (Nine Gateways) Pass of the Great Wall(丸门ロ失城)

The 44-kilometer section of the Great Wall located in Suizhong County was built in 1381 during the Ming Dynasty. It is 5 meters wide and 10 meters high, and features several passes, including Jiumenkou Pass, Sandao Pass, Huangtuling Pass and Xiyangkou Pass. Jiumenkou Pass is in Lijiaxiang of Suizhong County. It is 15 kilometers south of Shanhaiguan Pass and was one of the most crucial strategic passes of the Great Wall. Built on the Jiujiang River, the foundations are made of big stone slabs lying lengthwise in the water. There are nine stone gateways through which the river flows, hence the name, Jiumenkou ('jiu' means nine, 'men' means gate). Each gate is 5 meters wide and 10 meters high.

Shengshui (Saint Water) Temple

Shengshui Temple lies in the north of the Lianhua mountain region in Yangjia County. In the west part of the temple, a hot spring flows all year round. The local people believe the water has great curative powers, so the temple was called Shengshui, or 'Potent Water' Temple. Even in cold winter days, the temperature of the water can reach 70 centigrade.

ater can reach 70 centigrade. Xingcheng Scenic Spot (兴城风景区)

Xingcheng is renowned for the ancient city, hot springs, beautiful sea, strange mountain and elegant island. It is a key scenic spot and an important historical site, as one of the best-preserved Ming Dynasty cities in China. The seawater is clear and clean and the gently sloping beach is smooth and sandy.

Xinghaiwan (兴海湾)

Xinghaiwan, or Xinghai bay, lies 8 kilometers southeast of Xingcheng city; it has a length of 2 kilometers. The seashore of Xinghaiwan has been developed into a bathing beach. Three pavilions connected by small bridges have been built on the huge rock standing to the north of the bay. There is a theme park named Mythology World of China nearby.

The Hot Springs

During the Ming dynasty, a hot spring bathhouse named Zhishuang Pavilion was built near the springs for the use of high-ranking officials. In the Qing dynasty, public bathing houses were built for curing common people of various diseases. Today a luxury villa has been built near the largest of the hot springs. The abundant trace elements it contains are said to be of great medicinal value for curing such diseases as rheumatoid arthritis, various stomach ailments and facilitating recovery from nervous breakdown.

ervous breakdown. Juhuadao (Chrysanthemum Island)

Juhua Island is 10 kilometers off the coast of Xingcheng. It has an area of 13.5 km², and its highest point is 243 meters above sea level. One of the main attractions is the Babaoliulijing Well, famous for its sweet water. There is a ancient cave named Tangwang (King of Tang Dynasty) concealed behind a strange rock standing in the northwest of the island, the temperature in the cave is low, even on hot summer days. The other sights on the island are Jiudingshi, Jingshuipen and Dianjiangtai.



Ancient Town of Xingcheng

The ancient town of Xingcheng was called Ningyuanweicheng in the Ming dynasty and Ningyuanzhoucheng in the Qing dynasty. It is now one of the four bestpreserved Ming dynasty towns in China. Construction of the town began in 1430. The inner wall of the town is made of black bricks and the outer wall of stone. The town is 826 meters long and 804 meters wide. The wall is 10 meters high, 5 meters wide at the top and 6 meters wide at the bottom part. The total length of the wall is 3,260 meters. There is a gate on each side and defense towers on each corner. The cross streets and the Drum and Bell Tower are typical of Ming dynasty design.

Following are some suggested itineraries for a visit to Xingcheng scenic spot of Huludao.



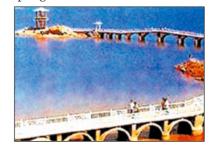
Photo by Su Yan

3-day tour:

Day one: Take a late night or early morning train from Beijing and spend the whole day on the seashore. It takes only four hours to get there by train from Beijing. After getting off the train at Xingcheng, take bus no. 1 at the stop in the west of the square in front of the railway station. It's a 30-minute ride to Xingcheng scenic spot. Entertainment on the seashore includes cable car sightseeing, motorboat riding, and theme parks. This is a well-developed scenic spot; there are many restaurants and hotels. Eating out is less expensive than it is in Beijing, and seafood is especially cheap, with most dishes ranging between 20 and 30 yuan (few more than 40 yuan).

Day two: Take a trip to Juhuadao in the morning, and come back to relax on the beach for the afternoon. A visit to Juhuadao is a must. The island is less developed than the Xingcheng seashore, and not so crowded. Also, the prices of marine products are somewhat lower here. In the early morning you can enjoy the spectacle of sunrise after getting up in one of the hotels on Xingcheng seashore, then take the 45-minute boat trip to Juhuadao. You will be met at the boat dock by hustlers offering mini bus tours around the island. The bus will take you to Dabei Temple, Tangwang Cave, Bajiaojing and Jiudingshi, and you will get some great views of the sea along the way. The sea is quite deep around the island and the wind can be very strong, sending spray many meters up into the air. The bus tour will take about 2 hours, and only costs 10 yuan. You will find various types of seafood on sale around the boat dock, don't forget to bargain; if the sellers say 10 yuan, 5 yuan is probably a reasonable price! You can have your purchase cooked in a restaurant when you get back to Xingcheng, before you head back to the beach to work on your suntan.

Day three: Climb to the summit of Shoushan Mountain in the morning, bathe in the hot springs and visit the ancient town of Xingcheng



in the afternoon. Shoushan Mountain is 3 kilometers east of Xingcheng City. It gets its name from its human head-like shape (shoushan means head shaped). A taxi will take you there within 15 minutes. The mountain is 330 meters high, and it is also called Sleeping Beauty for its elegant shape. There is a beacon tower on the top of the mountain. The tour on the mountain will take 2 to 3 hours. In the afternoon, you can bathe in the hot springs. Bus no. 1 will take you to the hot spring villa, and after you have refreshed and invigorated yourself in the soothing waters, continue in the no. 1 bus to the ancient town of Xingcheng. Spend 2 to 3 hours exploring the town, go out the west gate, walk 200 meters, turn right and you will find the train station. You can go back to Beijing by train. The train no. 590 will leave for Beijing at 10:06 pm and arrive in Beijing at 6:18 am the next morning. In this 3-day tour, you have visited all the key scenic spots around Xingcheng. The tour should only cost 290 yuan.

2-day tour:

The first day, spend the day on the beach at Xingcheng, at night, try some local seafood. Day two, get up early to see the sunrise, visit Juhuadao in the morning, and the ancient town of Xingcheng in the afternoon. Tour to Shoushan Mountain is left out in this schedule. This tour should cost around 230 yuan.

1-day tour:

In this schedule, you should spend the morning on the seashore and visit the ancient town of Xingcheng in the afternoon. A one day tour should only cost 90 yuan.

Tips:

-The Xingcheng seashore is 9 kilometers from the train station. Bus no. 1 will take you there for 1 yuan and the trip takes less than 30 minutes. Alternatively, you could take a taxi, which will cost you 10 yuan.

-Do not close a bargain before you see the seafood you want to buy.

-Be sure to walk along the top of the wall of the ancient town of Xingcheng, or you may miss the most charming part of the city. This will cost 5 yuan.

-On Juhuadao Island, you can ask the fisherman to boat you to Zhangshandao Island two miles away. They will charge you a small fee; it shouldn't be more than 50 yuan. Zhangshandao Island is uninhabited; you can fish and catch crabs there.

Where: Xingcheng is in the west of Liaoning Province, on the Bohai Gulf. It is 60 kilometers southwest of Jinzhou, and 100 kilometers northeast of Shanhaiguan Pass.

Expenses: 6 yuan to get onto the seashore, 5 yuan for Juhuadao tour and 5 yuan to walk on top of the wall, 30 or 40 yuan per day for a double room.

How to get there: Many trains heading for Shenyang will take you there. Train no. T537, for example, starts from Beijing at 5:20 pm and arrives in Xingcheng at 10:53 pm.

We would like to share your outdoor experiences and adventures. If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

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